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SHEPHERDS

For Commission on Membership
and Evangelism in the Local Church

August, 1953
Vol. 7—No. 11

Geo. H. Jones, *Editor*
Gordon Pratt Baker, *Editorial Associate*
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TIDINGS, 1908 Grand Avenue
Nashville 5, Tennessee

Chairmen of the Commissions on Membership and Evangelism in local churches, whose names and addresses are available, receive *Shepherds* each month free of charge. Pastors, District Superintendents, and District and Conference Secretaries of Evangelism are requested to report these names and addresses, giving the name of the church, charge, District, and Conference.

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What Do You Mean?
David A. MacLennan
Yale University Divinity School

No Formula Is Enough!
R. Wayne McLain
American University, Washington, D.C.

A Church on Fire
Gordon H. Schroeder
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No Thank You
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New Bethlehem United Presbyterian Church, Aliquippa, Pa.

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THE *Need* FOR NEW CHURCHES

AMERICAN Methodism can accomplish much good by strategically placing new churches in communities which are now unchurched or under-churched. Population shifts during recent years have put new communities into places where previously there were only open fields. In the cities, thousands upon thousands of persons are living in territories not served by any church. There are community centers in rural areas where strong congregations can be established, and there are rural churches that were prematurely abandoned and ought to be reopened. There are churches in cities with memberships too large for unhurried Christian fellowship, where adequate pastoral visitation and personal contact are rendered untenable. These groups could well sponsor new congregations and enlarge the Kingdom. When a large church assists in organizing a new congregation and gives part of its effort and life to such work, the Kingdom is helped immeasurably.

In many county-seat towns there is need for a second and even a third Methodist church. Numerous communities are "mushrooming" so rapidly that more than one church is necessary to match their spiritual opportunities and to meet their spiritual demands. Methodists cannot be content with one church when hundreds of persons in the general vicinity of that church have no pastor to minister to their needs. If these pastoral responsibilities are to be met, new churches must be organized and built in these areas, and often the existing churches must spark the vision leading to their construction. **The articles in this issue of *Shepherds* show how various congregations and communities throughout the nation have met this challenge.**

How to Build New Churches

Here are recommended procedures:

1. *Survey the territory.* Let the Bishop, District Superintendent, or a sponsoring church make a friendly study of the community. Get the names of the people, where they live, a record of their church membership or preference; and make a list of prospective members for the new church.

2. *Locate a meeting place.* Find a building where the church services and Sunday school can be held until the congregation can establish itself in its own church home. Oftentimes this will be a school building, a home, or two or three neighboring homes for Sunday school classes.

3. *Conduct visitation evangelism.* Let the District Superintendent call all his ministers into that community on an appointed day, give them the necessary visitation instructions and local directions (such as the place and time of first church service) that will acquaint residents with the new church proposition, assign the prospect cards, and send out the visitors two by two to cover the entire territory in the afternoon and evening. Let them carry out the regular procedures of visitation evangelism, visiting for Christ and for Christ's Church. Charter members will be secured.

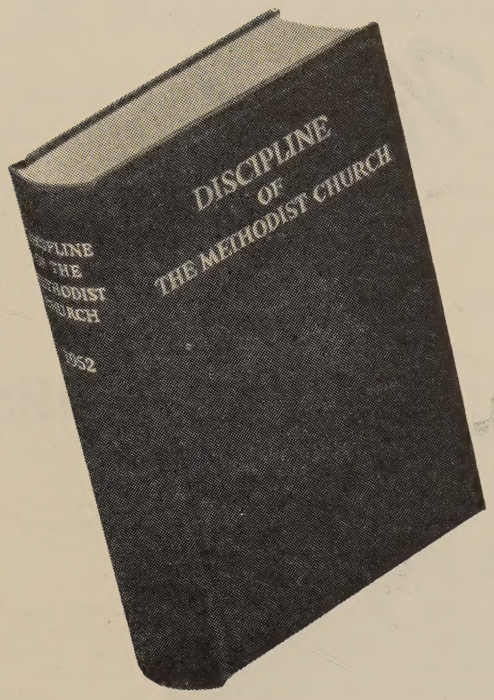
Securing a Pastor

There should be some plan for carrying on the work of the church before the church is organized. The church may be organized and developed successfully in one of three ways:

Plan 1. The Bishop, District Superintendent, or sponsoring church secures a pastor in advance and guarantees his salary. Usually most of his salary will be paid by the new church which he will shepherd.

Plan 2. Let the District Superintendent or pastor of a well-established church get that congregation to sponsor a new church. Lay officials of the sponsoring church can supply temporary leadership and hold services at the new church.

Plan 3. The pastor of the sponsoring church can conduct services for the new church in the afternoon (frequently in the evenings) until a pastor can be secured for the new church. This may seem like a heavy extra load for the pastor of the sponsoring church, but it is an experience of enrichment.



General Conference Legislation Concerning the Organization of New Churches

The General Conference of 1952 adopted the following legislation for the organization of local churches:

See V. **The Method of Organizing a Local Church**

¶ 155. 1. When a local church is to be organized, the district superintendent shall, after a survey has been made and the need for a church is determined, recommend to the District Board of Church Location and Building (¶ 704-7) the site for the proposed new congregation. If there is a city or district missionary society (¶ 1218-20), that body shall also be asked to approve the site. (See ¶ 1227.)

2. The district superintendent shall call the persons interested in the proposed church to meet at an appointed time and place, or he may by written authorization designate any pastor in his district to call such a meeting.

3. The district superintendent, or the pastor holding authority from him, shall preside, and shall appoint a secretary to keep a record of the meeting. Following a period of worship, opportunity shall be given those in attendance to present themselves for membership by proper certificates of transfer. Pastors issuing such certificates to a church not yet organized shall describe therein the proposed new church to which it is issued—as, for instance, "the proposed new church on Boston Avenue."

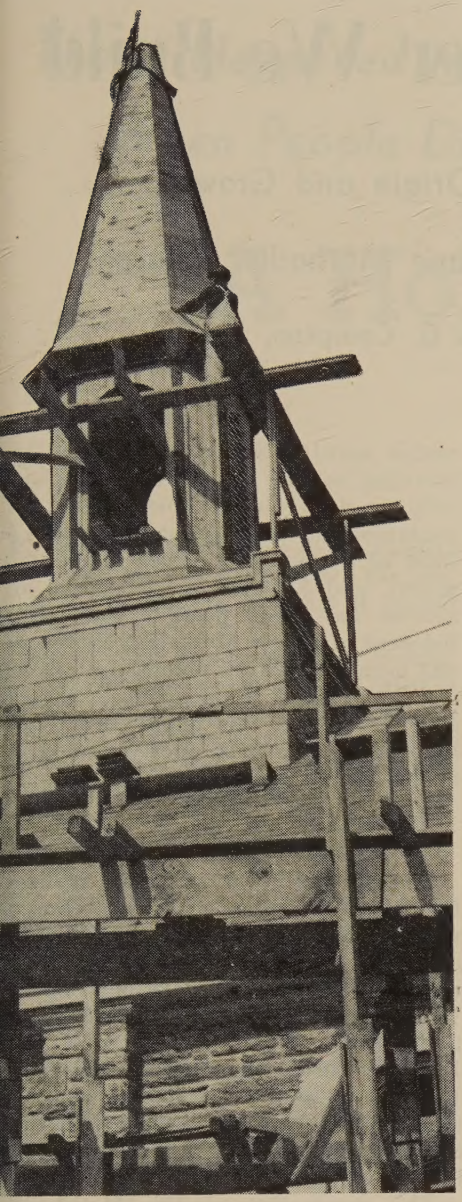
4. Opportunity shall also be given persons desiring to become members on profession of their faith in Christ to present themselves for membership. When the presiding minister is satisfied as to the genuineness of their faith and purpose (¶ 107), they shall be received into the membership of the church in accordance with the prescribed form. (¶ 1914-15.)

5. A list shall be made of all the persons received into the membership of the proposed church, by transfer and on profession. Those persons in the membership eighteen years of age and over shall be members of the constituting Church Conference, and each shall be entitled to vote.

6. The constituting Church Conference shall then be called to order, and it shall proceed to choose the elective stewards of the church (¶ 143 § 1), on nomination of a committee on nominations. Such committee shall be appointed by the presiding minister or elected on nomination from the floor as the conference may determine. In either case the presiding minister shall be chairman. When the elective stewards have been chosen in proper number (¶ 208), the presiding minister shall declare the church properly constituted.

7. He shall then adjourn the Church Conference and call to order the Quarterly Conference of the pastoral charge. The membership of said Quarterly Conference shall be the newly elected stewards and any others entitled to membership under the provisions of the *Discipline* (¶ 138). The Quarterly Conference shall then elect such officers of the church as the *Discipline* requires, including trustees of church property (¶ 159-60), and shall set up commissions and committees as provided in the *Discipline* (¶ 144-45). When such officers have been duly elected and the proper commissions and committees constituted, the church is duly organized, and from this point its work shall proceed as described in the *Discipline; provided* that when a newly organized church is attached to a circuit, the pastoral-charge Quarterly Conference shall not be held until such time as representatives from all the churches of the charge can be properly assembled for that purpose.

8. The Quarterly Conference may take action, at its discretion, authorizing and directing the newly elected trustees to incorporate the newly organized church in accordance with local laws and the provisions of the *Discipline*.



Boom in Church Building

(The following article, released by the Associated Press, is used with permission of Wide World Publications Division.)

DRIVE through almost any city, and you'll see a wealth of new churches, either up or going up.

It's the result of one of the biggest waves of church building in this country's history.

"There's never been anything like it," said a spokesman for the bureau of church building and architecture of the National Council of Churches.

Three Major Faiths Involved

All three major faiths, Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish, have poured huge funds into projects for expanding and adding new religious structures in the last few years.

"The boom in church building has been notable particularly in the metropolitan Midwest and Far Western areas," said Monsignor Thomas J. McCarthy of the National Catholic Welfare conference.

An estimated billion dollars worth of new Protestant churches now are in the process of being planned in the architect's offices. Thousands of others are already for building or newly finished.

"It started after the war," said Dr. Emil Lehman, assistant executive director of the United Synagogues of America. "We thought it would ebb by now, but more building is going on all over the country."

Reports to the National Production Authority show that money invested in new religious construction rose steadily from $76,000,000 in 1946, the first postwar year, to a new high of $452,000,000 in 1951.

"Probably never before has there been so much church building," said John Penn, secretary for church development of the National Mission Board of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

A Few Examples

Since World War II, the Catholics have been opening 150 to 200 churches a year, often averaging nearly four a week. Among them are the $200,000 St. Rose of Lima Church in Houston, and St. Ann's Church in Mission, Kansas, with its landscaped grounds and parking lot.

The Missouri Synod of the Lutheran Church alone has dedicated 89 new churches this year, varying from the sleek, modernistic Christ's Church in Minneapolis to the majestic, Gothic Immanuel Lutheran Church in Baltimore.

For four years, the Methodists have been adding about two new churches a day.

The Southern Baptists have built at a similar rate.

The Presbyterians have spent, in five years, an estimated $60,000,000 on 1,662 new church structures, and now are in the midst of a $12,000,000 fund-raising campaign to build more.

The trend applies all along the line—to Episcopalians, Disciples of Christ, Congregationalists, and other denominations.

At the roots of the current surge in construction is World War II, when materials priorities forced deferment of such projects, and before that, a decade of depression when churches couldn't afford new buildings.

Not only was there a 15-year backlog of normally needed new construction, but the war and its aftermath brought big changes in the residential pattern.

New towns were born, and people moved, especially to the suburbs. Churches were lacking.

Just after the war, many denominations delayed building outlays, either to concentrate first on raising the money, or in hopes building costs would drop.

By 1948, the rush was on, and the tempo kept mounting.

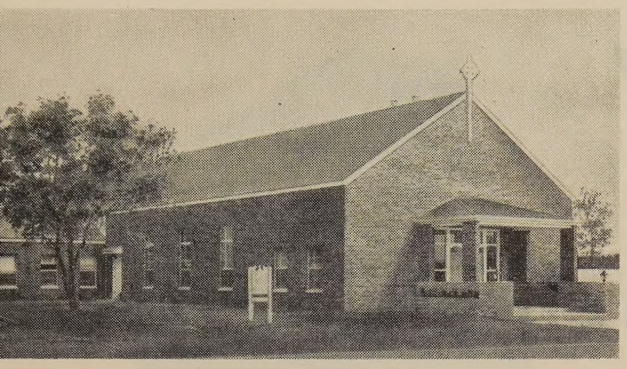
Much Donated Labor

In many communities, businessmen and tradesmen took hammer and trowel in hand and did part of the work themselves.

They hung wiring and fitted pipe. Housewives served lunches on saw horse-and-plank tables to volunteer week-end crews.

Thousands of new places of worship—little ones like the Nichols Hills Baptist Church in Oklahoma City and big ones like the $2,000,000 Park Synagogue in Cleveland—sprang up.

They dot the mushrooming suburban areas and the scores of new industrial communities, from the outskirts of Los Angeles to the new town of Flemming, Georgia, at the atom-bomb plant on the Savannah River.



Together We Build

The Origin and Growth of Sunny Lane Methodist Church

by Ora G. Compton, Pastor

DEL CITY is a suburban community located just east of Oklahoma City. Its development began in 1947 because of its nearness to Tinker Field Air Force Base. About 60 per cent of the wage earners living in Del City's 2,000 homes are employed at Tinker Field Air Force Base. Most of the other 40 per cent are employed in Oklahoma City.

Most of the community is composed of young people of about the same economic class who are paying for their F.H.A. homes and rearing their families.

Thirty-Six Initial Members

When the need for a Methodist church in this community was felt, an organizational meeting was held in the Del City grade school. This meeting was held on the last Sunday of May, 1950, with the District Superintendent, Robert J. Smith, present. Thirty-six persons united with the church on that first Sunday. The church was named "The Sunny Lane Methodist Church" after an early rural Methodist church which had been located in that vicinity but was destroyed by a tornado in 1945.

On the first Sunday of June, 1950, Orra G. Compton was appointed pastor. This appointment was made possible by the joint support of the General and Conference Boards of Missions.

During the first year the public school building was used for the church services. The church was fully organized, and a full program was developed. There were two worship services, a church school, and a Youth Fellowship meeting each Sunday.

The purchase of a temporary parsonage was made possible by a loan from the District Lay Leader, B. C. Clark, Sr. A building site, 330 feet by 125 feet, located adjacent to a site for a new junior high school, was purchased at the cost of $6,000.00. The purchase was made jointly by the General, Conference, and District Boards of Missions and Church Extension and the local church. There were 172 persons who united with the church, and the local congregation contributed a total of $5,000.00 to the program of the church.

New Brick Parsonage

By the end of the second year Sunny Lane had accomplished many more things. A $7,000.00 F.H.A. loan made possible the building of a lovely three-bedroom, brick parsonage valued at $12,500 on a site adjacent to the church site. A $35,000 brick educational building was constructed with the help of a loan from the General Board of Church Extension and contributions from the Conference and District Boards of Missions. This new building provided nine classrooms, a kitchen, and a fellowship hall which will seat 200 people for dinners or 300 people for our worship services. During this second year the membership grew to 281, and the local congregation contributed a total of $10,000 to the program of the church.

We are now nearing completion of the third year. The membership has grown to 425, and a total of approximately $18,000 has been contributed by the local church this year. Plans are underway for the completion of a second unit to our educational building next year. In the meantime, we are using the public junior high school next door for our overflow church school classes.

The building program has developed rather slowly. Nevertheless, it is interesting to note that so little financial help can do so much in encouraging the beginning of a new congregation. A total of $3,200 in salaries, $6,000 in grants, and $37,000 in loans from all sources has made possible the establishment of a new Methodist church of 425 members, with a potential of 1,000 members even if the community should stop building at this point. There has been acquisition of property valued at $55,000.

With Confidence and High Morale

This is not spectacular we realize, but it is the success story of a church which has built steadily and solidly with confidence and high morale. It is a testimony of the effectiveness of our slogan, "Together We Build." It is a cooperative enterprise of a local church, the District, the Conference, the General Boards, and the Lord, whom we all seek to serve. It is another testimony of the effectiveness of Methodism in meeting the challenge of modern city expansion.

The cooperation of The Methodist Church, the lay people of Sunny Lane Methodist Church, the guidance of God, and a sense of working with the Lord has made the establishment of this new church a most rewarding experience for everyone involved. *"Together we have builded."*

A worship service in the fellowship hall which, at the present time, is being used as the sanctuary

Things Happened in Whitehall When People Discovered . . .

A HOLE IN THE CARPET

by Mrs. Maye Reid

BLESSED be the hole in the carpet! That hole was what started the program. And what a program it turned out to be!

One day at the close of a meeting of the Woman's Society of Christian Service, the minister—who had not been long on the charge—caught his toe in a small hole in the chancel carpet, just back of the pulpit. Looking up, he laughingly said, "Somebody is going to take a header if he gets his toe too far into that hole!" Folks laughed with him, and then the matter seemed to be forgotten.

Question of a Carpet

At the Society's next meeting, however, the question of a new carpet arose. A committee was appointed; and, as usually happens when women take hold in that manner, the new carpet was soon purchased and properly laid.

That was the beginning of a new day for the little church. Great things began to happen because the folks "had a mind to work" and put their hands to what needed to be done.

One bright spot reflects on other spots not so bright. At the next meeting of the Society someone asked, "What can be done to make our windows more attractive? Shall we get new drapes, or shall we dispose of them and put up venetian blinds?" As the women discussed various changes, the problem grew in proportion. It was finally decided to talk the matter over with the trustees.

After carefully looking at prices (and surreptitiously looking into pocketbooks out of which would have to come the wherewithal to purchase whatever was to be purchased), the people decided to start a genuine improvement program—not just to change the windows, although that would be the first improvement.

After ascertaining the cost per window, the group decided to replace the clear glass with opalescent cathedral glass, using the old sashes. The matter was presented to the congregation. They were told what the price would be per window and, after the service, were given opportunity of subscribing for a window. Before the day was over, the windows had all been subscribed!

Trinity Methodist Church before remodeling.

Next, the walls and ceiling were covered with Nu-wood planking; and the old, dark brown woodwork—including wainscoting—was painted a soft rose beige. Modern lighting fixtures were then installed.

At this point the Sunday school teachers declared, "We need more room for our classes. We need a recreation room for our youth, children, and adults; and we need better facilities for our Woman's Society."

It was then that the real pull began! If more room was to be added to the present structure, plans and specifications must be drawn and a definite financial program outlined. At a meeting of the official board it was agreed to build an addition which would almost double the present capacity. The officials decided that they themselves were the ones to start the financial program. One after another, the members of the board put their names down for a good-sized donation toward the addition. The men and women of the church caught a great vision, and prayer went up to God for guidance and wisdom.

Building Program Advances

Spurgeon once said, "Pray to God, but keep the hammer going." Thus did the building program go forward. Ever since 1892, whenever lunches or suppers had been served at the church, water was carried over from the parsonage in buckets for the coffee and the clean-up. Now the women said, "Let us pipe water into the church and install a water heater."

Not only did the folks of the church work with consecrated zeal and loyalty, but the entire community became interested. Actually, it was a community project, too. People who had not given a great deal of consideration to the church in past years now became conscious that something unusual was stirring in the hearts and spirits of the members. Those who "came to see" remained to worship. Likewise, they opened their purses, saying, "Let us help!"

As a part of the new addition the kitchen had been enlarged. Built-in cupboards supplied ample space for dishes and cooking utensils. A two-well sink and a gas range were installed. Linoleum was placed on the floor. For the heating of the entire building, a new one-unit gas furnace was installed.

(Mrs. Reid is the wife of George Reid, pastor, Trinity Methodist Church, Whitehall, Montana)

Visitors who came into the kitchen declared that this was now a kitchen worthy of a much larger church; for, with its freshly painted walls and splendid lighting, it was a happy place in which to work.

Numerous Gifts

The church had but one piano. Now, with the additional room, another piano was a real necessity. The Sunday school board thought it could buy a used piano, made an offer, bought it (as they thought), and had it moved into the church! Then another beautiful thing happened—the piano was donated to the church! Previously, numerous other gifts had been made to add beauty to this "new" church. Among these were a beautiful oak pulpit, an illuminated cross, a pulpit scarf, additional hymnals to supplement those on hand, two offering plates, a table for the communion, new communion linen, and a new pulpit Bible.

"Beauty for beauty's sake" had opened up, as it were, a hitherto untried door into the sanctuary of the soul. A great thanksgiving rose up to God that He had led His people to see that there is high value in the "things that are lovely." And now, at the completion of these first projects, there came the challenge to do still more.

From the beginning, the seating facilities in the sanctuary had been dining room chairs. "Now we must have pews," said the people of church and community. A committee was appointed

Trinity Methodist Church after remodeling

to work toward that end. But before the committee was well organized the pledges and money started coming in—without fuss or drive. Now the order has gone to the factory for pews!

From a Small Beginning

The significance of all this becomes apparent when we realize that the small beginning in placing a new carpet in the chancel led to the enlarged and improved and beautiful building. Moreover, the church records showed 47 active members in 1949 when the improvement project was begun. Three years later the same church recorded 69 active members. There is every evidence that by Conference time in 1953 the number will be appreciably increased.

In the area of finances the first goal to be established was $3,500. This grew to $6,500, with only $500 grant-in-aid from the Board of Home Missions and Church Extension. There is no debt. Hundreds of hours of labor were donated by friends and members alike, and it is impossible to appraise the financial value of their work. As we regard the magnificent success of our renovation program, we are increasingly aware that it has all been "the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes."

Builders of Churches

GOD builds no churches! By His plan
That labor has been left to man.
No spires miraculously arise,
No little mission from the skies
Falls on a bleak and barren place
To be a source of strength and grace;
The church demands its price
In human toil and sacrifice.

The humblest spire in mortal ken,
Where God abides, was built by men,
And if the church is still to grow,
Is still the light of hope to throw
Across the valleys of despair,
Man still must build God's house of prayer.
God sends no churches from the skies,
Out of our hearts they must arise.

—*Author Unknown*

Visitation Evangelism Builds Churches

Lake Shore Methodist Church, Jacksonville, Florida

Church Receives 111 New Members

"We never saw it like this before." "A day we will never forget." "Something to be proud of."

Such were some of the comments as the congregation of First Methodist Church in Lincoln, Nebraska, left the morning service, Sunday, April 12.

What had so deeply stirred their feelings was the long procession of people coming to the chancel rail for baptism, membership vows, and transfer of membership. When Joe Riley Burns, pastor, had finished calling the names, First Methodist Church had received 111 new members!

This memorable service climaxed a Week of Evangelism held during the first week of March. Eugene E. Golay, of the General Board of Evangelism, served as director of the Visitation Campaign. Finis Crutchfield, pastor of McFarlin Memorial Methodist Church in Norman, Oklahoma, was the evangelistic preacher.

Disaster struck when illness sidelined the pastor for a month right at the time when it was necessary to organize committees, secure callers, and enlist the cooperation of the congregation. In desperation, he called the Commission on Membership and Evangelism to his home and told the members they would have to assume major responsibility or else abandon the whole project. The Commission accepted the challenge and effectively prepared for the campaign.

On Saturday night preceding the Sunday opening, it began to storm. By Sunday afternoon a Nebraska blizzard was raging. By nightfall the streets were almost impassible. That set more or less the weather pattern for the week.

Yet somehow the visitation proceeded and good-sized crowds were present each evening to hear Dr. Crutchfield's excellent sermons. As the number of commitments grew, so did the enthusiasm of the workers.

Members received into First Methodist Church, Lincoln, Nebraska, April 12, 1953

First New Church in 25 Years

A shining example of the great work that can be accomplished through Visitation Evangelism is the intensively alive Lake Shore Methodist Church, Jacksonville, Florida, with its beautiful sanctuary and its far-seeing pastor, T. H. Norton.

In 1944, while he was pastor of the Ortega Church in Jacksonville, Mr. Norton recognized the need for establishing a new Methodist church in the fast growing Lake Shore area of the city. Despite the growth of Jacksonville, no new Methodist churches had been organized within the past 25 years.

In the early fall of 1944, with the cooperation of O. E. Rice, pastor of the Jacksonville First Methodist Church, a survey of the Lake Shore area was started. It soon developed that this work could be done to better advantage by hiring an experienced person, and a Lutheran woman made the survey between Christmas and New Year's.

A meeting was called for the purpose of discussing the possibilities of a new church. Only one layman and his wife appeared at that first meeting. At the second, this couple brought their child and Mr. Norton and his wife brought their two.

From this beginning, the growth started. On Palm Sunday, 1945, the same small group held its first worship service in a community house. When the church was formerly organized, two of the men elected to the Board of Stewards were baptized by Dr. Turner. Charter membership was kept open until June, when Mr. Norton was appointed pastor of 36 members.

Mr. Norton went to Atlanta to take part in a visitation campaign at the invitation of Guy H. Black. There he learned much and returned to Jacksonville to invite several preachers to assist him in pairing off with what laymen he had to visit prospects.

On Easter Sunday 90 new members came into the church; and when the Annual Conference met in June, a membership of 152 was presented to the Conference as the new Lake Shore Methodist Church.

From 900 homes within a mile radius of the church in 1945, the community has grown to more than 3,000 homes and 100 business places. The pastor and his laymen have continued to visit, two-by-two, and have added 732 to the church membership. Of this number, 330 came by profession of faith.

Property was given to the church through the Livingston Board, an agency which administers the estate of C. O. Livingston to build new Methodist churches in Florida. With funds from the church treasury, the Florida Conference Board of Missions and Church Extension, and the Crusade for Christ offering—together with public subscriptions and pledges—a sanctuary and educational building valued at $150,000 has been erected. The building, of Spanish colonial design, is constructed of Crab Orchard stone both inside and out.

The Brent family found that the best time for them to have family devotions was at the breakfast table. Here they are, all five, with dad reading the meditation from *The Upper Room*.

Below. Polly, youngest of the Brent family, proves to be pretty wise in the ways of her folks. At the left, the family waves good-by to dad, who, like many other fathers these days, is away from home a great deal.

Two New Filmstrips

On these pages are some of the pictures from one of the two new filmstrips, with sound, ready for distribution by THE UPPER ROOM. *The Church in Thy House* is a 10-minute, 58-frame story of a family that learned to make use of family devotions as a source of strength and power for daily living. It is an effective teaching tool which will be welcomed for use by churches and church organizations everywhere.

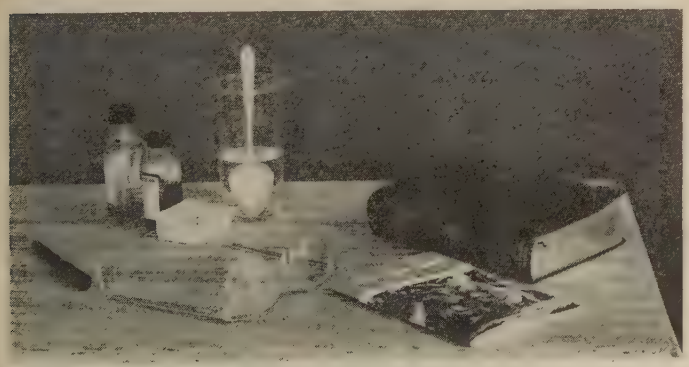
The Romance of The Upper Room is a similar strip telling something of the remarkable story of the mission, the outreach, and the growth of THE UPPER ROOM.

Photography is excellent. The sound for each filmstrip was produced by RCA-Victor. Each filmstrip requires two sides of a 12-inch record player at the regular 78-rpm speed.

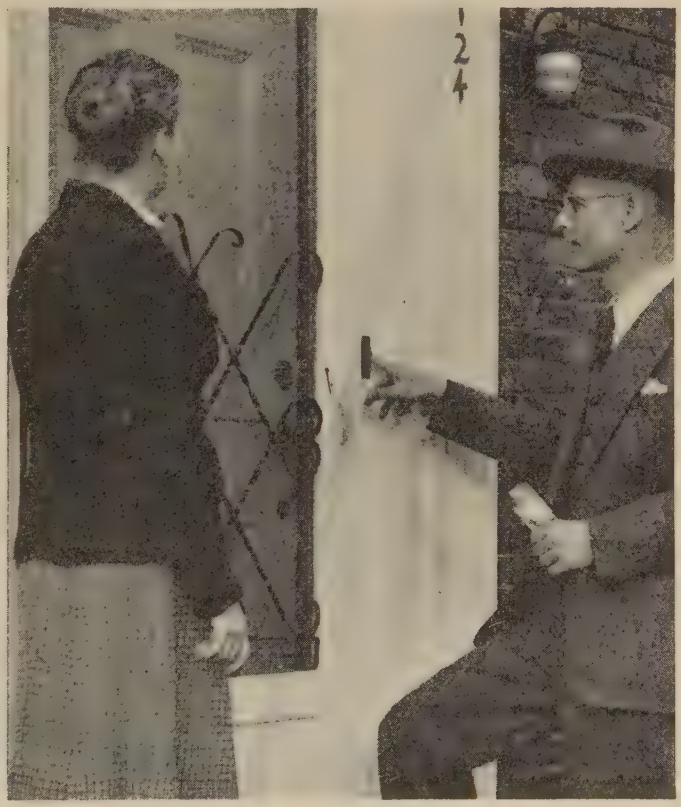
These two helpful filmstrips, with sound, are for sale for only $7.50 for the two. The package includes the recordings as well as the strips and the mimeographed guides for the operator of the projector. The recordings can be played on any record player. The low price is established as it is believed they will thus get wider use. They are not sold separately.

On their first Sunday in town the Brents went to church and there made their acquaintance with *The Upper Room*. The church provides copies as part of its regular ministry.

When Brent had an illness that put him in bed for a time, he found that he got much needed spiritual help from daily devotions. Here he tells the pastor about it.

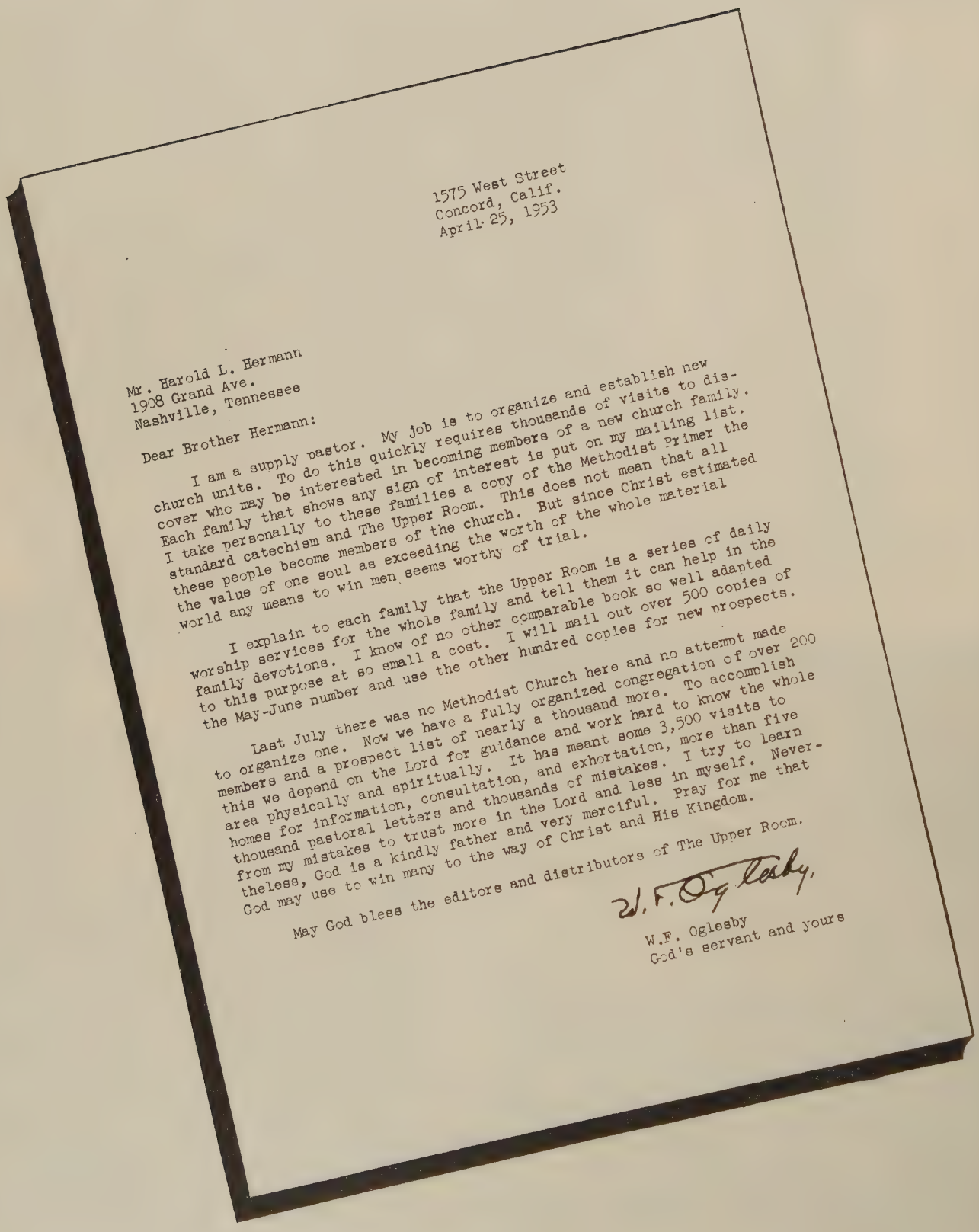


On the bedside table is his medicine—just what the doctor ordered—plus of course, *The Upper Room* and the Bible.



Convinced that family devotions and daily Bible reading really do make a difference in their family, Mr. and Mrs. Brent call on some neighbors with a copy of *The Upper Room* in hand, to tell them about their discovery.

Letters



1575 West Street
Concord, Calif.
April 25, 1953

Mr. Harold L. Hermann
1908 Grand Ave.
Nashville, Tennessee

Dear Brother Hermann:

I am a supply pastor. My job is to organize and establish new church units. To do this quickly requires thousands of visits to discover who may be interested in becoming members of a new church family. Each family that shows any sign of interest is put on my mailing list. I take personally to these families a copy of the Methodist Primer the standard catechism and The Upper Room. This does not mean that all these people become members of the church. But since Christ estimated the value of one soul as exceeding the worth of the whole material world any means to win men seems worthy of trial.

I explain to each family that the Upper Room is a series of daily worship services for the whole family and tell them it can help in the family devotions. I know of no other comparable book so well adapted to this purpose at so small a cost. I will mail out over 500 copies of the May-June number and use the other hundred copies for new prospects.

Last July there was no Methodist Church here and no attempt made to organize one. Now we have a fully organized congregation of over 200 members and a prospect list of nearly a thousand more. To accomplish this we depend on the Lord for guidance and work hard to know the whole area physically and spiritually. It has meant some 3,500 visits to homes for information, consultation, and exhortation, more than five thousand pastoral letters and thousands of mistakes. To accomplish from my mistakes to trust more in the Lord and less in myself. Nevertheless, God is a kindly father and very merciful. Pray for me that God may use to win many to the way of Christ and His Kingdom.

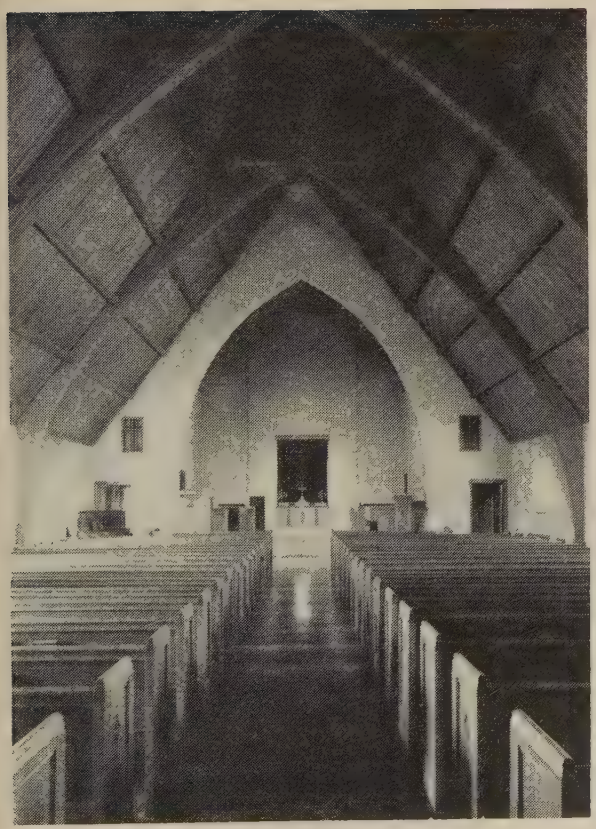
May God bless the editors and distributors of The Upper Room.

W.F. Oglesby

W.F. Oglesby
God's servant and yours

Tell the Stories of New Churches

Here, reproduced in miniature form, are letters which tell the thrilling accounts of two new churches built by dedication and vision. The letter on the opposite page bears witness to the evangelistic opportunities made available by the distribution of *The Upper Room*. The letter at the lower right tells how visitation evangelism brings new life to congregations. Pictured here are the new edifice and sanctuary of the West Side Methodist Church. Ann Arbor, Michigan.



West Side Methodist Church

900 SOUTH SEVENTH STREET

EDWIN J. WEISS, MINISTER
1220 SOUTH SEVENTH STREET

RESIDENCE PHONE 3-4385
CHURCH PHONE 2-2761

Ann Arbor, Michigan

April 15, 1953

Rev. George H. Jones
Shepherds
1908 Grand Avenue
Nashville 5, Tennessee

Dear Brother Jones:

Just a note of interest!

When I was asked five years ago to come to this church (with a history of 101 years) in July of 1948, I replied to the committee in this fashion: "Why should I come? You have a record of 101 years, yet you have a small static church, an indebted budget, and no vision." To which the chairman of the committee replied, "You tell us what to do, and we will do it." So, I looked at him and said, "Sir, I will come on one condition; namely, that you promise me 12 men who will give one night a month for visitation evangelism." This was promised with the following result.

In less than two years our attendance in Sunday school and church services doubled, and in three years it trebled, so that we outgrew our church forcing the congregation to seek larger facilities. The result: A new property of one and one-half acres and a new church costing $145,000 in four years. And now, in the 12 months since we have occupied the new building we have received another 176 new members and have some over 200 new families attending our church. This last result came about through the efforts of some 52 laymen who compose our Fishermen's group.

Easter found us with almost 700 more in attendance than we had four years ago. . . . Lesson: It pays to witness.

Edwin J. Weiss

When Churches Cooperate

THE Redings Rancho Village addition to Oklahoma City was platted in 1948. The Oklahoma City District Board of Missions and Church Extension interested the General Board in purchasing property for a Methodist church in this locality. The purchase was made and the area was developed. In the fall of 1950, the District Board was successful in interesting the St. Luke's Methodist Church in this new area. St. Luke's appointed a committee to investigate the needs and possibilities of a Methodist church in the area.

At the January, 1951, meeting of the official board of St. Luke's Methodist Church, there was a favorable report accepted from this committee. The report was followed by a recommendation from the District Superintendent, Leland Clegg, to stand behind the establishing of said church with sufficient leadership and financial assistance. This challenge was accepted by the board.

Early in March, the young people of St. Luke's went into the area and took a census to find out who the Methodists were and where they lived. Letters were sent out, and the date for the organization was set for the third Sunday of April, 1951. A small group organized what is now Asbury Methodist Church. St. Luke's furnished leadership for Sunday school and worship until the first pastor, Charles E. Wells, was appointed at Conference on June 1. St. Luke's continued its help of leadership in the fields of evangelism and education through the summer months.

The only place there was to meet was a five-room house donated by a generous member of the church, Dr. Paul B. Rice. We soon expanded to the downstairs of his lovely home next door; and by fall, we had 200 enrolled in Sunday school, with 80 church members. The underwriting of a loan by St. Luke's Church made it possible for us to make immediate plans for building a first unit on the church location. Just three months after Conference, architect's plans had been drawn and enough money obtained to start on the building. At this time, a $13,000.00 parsonage was also obtained. Ground was broken for our church building on September 21, and the congregation moved into an unfinished shell on Christmas Sunday. An organ had been purchased, and the people of the church entered into their first worship service as if it were a cathedral. Much sacrifice and hard work was to follow until the building reached completion. A building valued at $70,000.00 with furnishings of some $5,000.00, now stands on the ground purchased four years ago. Of this total value, the largest amount borrowed at one time was $28,000.00.

The building has 7,800 square feet of floor space with a combination sanctuary, fellowship hall, kitchen, church office, and Sunday school rooms for the entire children's department for an average church school.

The budget of the church during its second year has been $20,818.00. The budget for the coming year will be $22,400.00. Plans for the second unit of the building are now in process.

Top, the new Asbury Methodist Church in the Redings Rancho Village addition of Oklahoma City.

Right, a view of the sanctuary.

EVANGELISTIC ADVANCES

by J. W. Golden
Director, Department of Negro Work
General Board of Evangelism

IN THE CENTRAL JURISDICTION

A New Church in Park Manor, Chicago

LOCATED in Park Manor, Chicago, Illinois, Kelly Methodist Church is the newest, or youngest, congregation in the Lexington Conference. It had its beginning June 1, 1952—the first Sunday morning after the close of the Lexington Annual Conference held in Detroit, May 20-25, 1952. Mrs. Mary Jones, a volunteer worker from Gorham Methodist Church, was in charge of the Sunday school. She was assisted by Mr. and Mrs. Lorentz of the Rock River Conference. Rev. Hermes Zimmerman, who had served from 1951 to 1952 as Executive Secretary of the Lexington Conference, was called to take charge and build a congregation.

The first worship service was begun at 10:45 A.M. When the invitation was given, five members came forward. The first to unite was Mrs. Varina W. Riley, dramatic reader, speaker for the W.S.C.S., and wife of the District Superintendent, Sumpter M. Riley, Jr.

Much that had been done before June 1, 1952, enabled the work to open on that date. Stuart D. White, District Superintendent in the Rock River Conference of The Methodist Church, had told Dr. Riley that he wanted the Lexington Conference to own the church building at 70th and South Park Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. Toward this end they planned and worked together. They appealed to Bishop Kelly and Bishop McGee, who, from a secured fund, gave $10,000 and $5,000, respectively. The Board of Missions in Philadelphia cooperated with a gift of $17,000. This made a total of $32,000 on the purchase of the building and parsonage priced at $70,000.

A prayer band was organized by Rev. Zimmerman, and results have been both gratifying and amazing. The Lord is blessing this work. This beautiful new community is now in the hands of a justly proud colored congregation who have more than 115 adult members and over 100 children in the church school. Very little is said about money in the church services, but there has been an average each Sunday of more than $75.00. This does not include the contributions made to the church school.

Kelly Methodist Church has as its slogan, "Seek and Save."

Kelly Methodist Church in Park Manor, Chicago, Hermes Zimmerman, Pastor.

Evangelism for Our Time

THE YEAR 1953 has been designated as a time for a world wide movement of evangelism. This was the recommendation of the Ecumenical Conference, held in Oxford, England. At San Francisco, California, the General Conference approved this movement and pledged participation in it.

There is an awareness of the need and urgency in our time for the Church to reaffirm its loyalty to Christ and to make a real Christian advance by breaking down every idol and barrier, by denying all unchristian ideals, and by laying aside every weight and the sins which hinder or retard our progress in victorious living. As Christian witnesses, we must, in the love of Christ and in the unity and power of His spirit, make Him known to others and so present Him that old and young people alike will accept Him, love Him, obey Him, and serve Him as their Saviour and Lord.

The ministers and laymen of the Central Jurisdiction have dedicated themselves to this cause. In several of the Annual Conferences, plans have been made for United Evangelistic Preaching and Visitation Missions on District and Conference levels. Some will be in process when this article appears. The Local Church Commissions on Membership and Evangelism, in cooperation with the pastors, are conducting surveys, listing prospects, selecting workers, and training men and women for visitation by teams. Special emphasis is being placed on the importance of prayer groups, family worship, grace at meals, Christian living and witnessing.

The writer has personally visited, instructed, and planned with many of these Conferences, Districts, and local churches in preparation for both these missions and a year-round, active program of evangelism, encouraging liberal use of "Letters of Notification" and a close follow up of members who move to other communities.

W. D. Lester, who is now associated with the writer in the Department of Negro Work, is making a delightful beginning and will no doubt make a great contribution in the field of evangelism.

Our Bishops, District Superintendents, and many pastors are greatly interested; and they are now saying to our membership, "All out and all together for a great evangelistic movement to save souls and develop a greater spiritual and moral life on the part of our people that we may lift the level of their social and economic status as a part of our continuing program."

Through the leadership of Bishop Robert N. Brooks of the New Orleans Area, a Mobile Unit has been provided for the Area. This is being used in both urban and rural communities with great advantage. This is really a church on wheels. It is well equipped, having 200 *Methodist Hymnals,* a public address system, audio-visual aids for visual education, an electric organ, a record-player for sacred music, and a pulpit from which we have spoken to outdoor assemblies, as shown in the accompanying picture, which portrays a group in an Evangelistic Institute at Gulfside, Waveland, Mississippi.

We should all thank the eternal Father and Saviour for the opportunities which are ours and ask Him for wisdom and power to give us a great harvest of souls. Let us ask Him to help us in restoring, reviving, and developing a great Christian brotherhood and fellowship.

We call again upon our Methodist ministers and laymen to help us save our people to the Church in these times of unusual shift in our population. This can be done, in many places, by organizing and establishing new churches, by preaching, and by visitation. Wherever there is a community with a challenge, we will be glad to come and help in reaching the people, and in doing whatever is humanly possible for organizing, developing, and establishing new churches to save and win the people for Christ and His Church.

J. W. Golden conducts a service from the New Orlean's Area's new mobile unit.

FOR YOUR SUMMER READING

Lay Preaching in the Rural Church

by Charles A. Stuck

A fascinating book describing the evangelistic adventures of some Arkansas laymen who answered the challenge of the "silent pulpits." Shows what can be done by "ordinary members."

25¢ each; 12 or more, 20¢ each

FOR YOUR SUMMER EVANGELISM

The Time of Your Life

by Lawrence L. Lacour

A pictorial book designed for use in presenting the claims of Christ to young people. A very popular evangelistic tool. Excellent for use at institutes and summer camps.

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VICKSBURG DISTRICT *Conducts* A SURVEY

by Aubrey C. Walley
Conference Director of Evangelism
Mississippi Conference

THE Superintendent of the Vicksburg District, T. O. Prewitt, decided that there should be a survey made of the entire District. The District covers all of 10 counties and part of four more.

For the purpose of survey the District was divided into sub-districts. Large maps, showing all of the roads, houses, stores, churches, and schools of each county, were secured from the state highway department. These maps were put together to form one large map about 18 feet long.

A duplicate map of the same territory was made, showing the various churches of the Vicksburg District. This map is to be kept in the office of the District Superintendent.

Designated Territories

The other map was cut into those sections considered to be the territory of each charge in the Vicksburg District. Each pastor took his piece of the map, went back into his church or churches, and marked out from 10 to 20 houses on a given road. He numbered each section thus blocked off on the map, designating the territory as a zone for surveying. One or two workers, assigned to each zone, were then given survey cards bearing the number of the zone to which they were sent. The houses in each zone were also numbered. In this way, it was easy later to locate prospects when visitation teams checked zone and house numbers on the cards. A layman in each church was made responsible for the survey.

Above: The author (right) and a friend study the map described in this article.

By this method we found the "no-man's land" (that section not being worked by any Methodist pastor) between charges, between Districts, and between the North Mississippi Conference and the Mississippi Conference. Various pastors are to be assigned to work in the "no-man's land" area, to make a survey, and, if possible, to establish a new church in the same. While it was noted that some of the charges overlapped, it was also evident that in many cases there were vast areas not touched by any Methodist preacher.

Helpful Suggestions

The following suggestions are helpful in making the kind of survey here described:

1. Set a date for the survey to be conducted, one that will meet the approval of as many churches in the city as possible.
2. Secure a map of the city and call a meeting of the preachers to assist in marking it off into 25-30 zones.
3. Secure a captain for each zone.
4. Assign a captain to each zone, with instructions for him to drive over his territory and determine how many workers he will need to survey his section in two hours.
5. When each captain reports the number of workers he will need, total all reports and determine the number of workers needed for the entire survey. Ask your churches for a few more workers than actually required to take care of some who will fall out at the last minute. Then, too, your captain may have underestimated his need.
6. Furnish each captain with one envelope (map on back) for each worker in his group. The captain will write in the section that he wishes each worker to take (blocks 1100, 1200, etc.). If he has 15 workers he will need 15 envelopes. He will mark off a different area on each envelope. Each worker will survey only his or her area containing one to three blocks, depending on the size of the blocks and how thickly the section is settled.
7. Each envelope, with the map of the area to be worked, should contain 20 regular survey cards and four or five postals cards. These postal cards will have the survey questions printed on the back and are to be left in the doors where no one answers. They are to be mailed to the director. Have the return address on each card. Do not forget to provide each worker with a pencil.

Careful Advertising

8. At least one week should be spent in advertising the survey. The need of a survey should be stressed. Give the date and time it is to be held. Advertise in the local papers. Have spot announcements on the radio two or three days before the survey is to be taken. If possible, have a 15-minute radio talk telling the people all about the survey and the need of same. If the people are conscious of the day and hour it is to be taken, a more complete survey will be obtained than would otherwise be possible.

Each minister in the city should

be notified of the date of the survey and requested to make announcements from the pulpit. Each minister should be informed that all information concerning his church or prospects will be turned over to him as soon as all information is compiled.

9. The workers will all assemble in the most centrally located church at the time agreed on previously. They will be handed written instructions at the door. After a few brief instructions by those in charge they will go out with their captains to survey their zone. (See paragraph 10.)
10. The captain's name and number will be called. He will stand to be asked, "How many workers do you need?" "Fifteen," may be the reply. The first 15 workers will then stand and follow him to a room in the church where he will instruct them as to the location of their zone. Workers will be given envelopes, cards, and a pencil. (See paragraph 7.)
    Each worker will go with his captain to the zone to be worked. Captains will remain in their zones with the workers until the last worker has finished in order to receive all cards when the workers are through. All captains will report *immediately* to the director of the survey at church.
11. When the cards have been returned to the church, eight or 10 workers, previously e n g a g e d, should "sort" them for desired information. Where the family is split by denominations, two cards should be made. Information concerning other denominations should be shared after all information is compiled.
12. The ministers must sell their people on the great need of a survey. In return, the ministers themselves must be sold on the need of a survey.
13. With complete team-work on the part of all workers, most any city can be surveyed within 2½ hours on any given day. If a complete survey is to be obtained, weeks of preparation must precede the survey, as already indicated in the above paragraphs.

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Evangelism in Action

SUPPLEMENT TO SHEPHERDS

AUGUST, 1953

School for Rural Leaders

The 16th Annual Interdenominational School for Rural Leaders will be held at Garrett Biblical Institute, Northwestern University campus, Evanston, Illinois, from June 22 to July 24. There will be courses in rural sociology, agricultural economics, and rural church administration. Those interested should write **Otto J. Baab**, director of Summer Sessions, Garrett Biblical Institute, for details of cost and registration.

Visitation Evangelism Wins More than 100

On Easter Sunday 75 persons united with the First Methodist Church of Hawthorne, California. These were the last of more than 100 new members won to the church during the six weeks of Lent, reported **Harry W. Adams**, pastor, who credits Visitation Evangelism with obtaining these outstanding results.

Occupying its first unit for only 21 months, First Church already has a membership of more than 400. Of this number, 160 have been added since June, 1952. Because of the rapid growth, both in membership and attendance, the church is now holding two identical services on Sunday.

Can You Top This One?

Prior to the 1951 Annual Conference, Clapp's Chapel was one of four churches on the Knoxville Circuit (Knoxville District, Holston Conference). In October, 1951, it accepted a full-time pastor and became a station church. In November, 1951, it began construction of a parsonage. In January of 1952, the pastor moved into it. By Christmas, 1952, the parsonage was completely paid for, fully furnished, and valued at $13,500.00. In the meantime the church had finished paying for a church school addition of five rooms and a full size basement. All of this was done while carrying a full-time church budget, which was paid in full.

• • •

District Builds New Churches

Recent construction projects in the Appleton (Wisconsin) District include three new churches: Goodman, $50,000; Minocqua, $75,000; and Port Edwards, $154,000. In process of construction are: St. Paul's Church, Green Bay, $350,000; Peshtigo, $45,000; and Oneida, $30,000.

The 75 new members received on Easter Sunday by the First Methodist Church of Hawthorne, California.

Tent Meeting Produces New Church

A new church has been organized in Bowling Green, Kentucky, and a meeting-place has been bought at Glen Lilly and Crewdson Lane.

The new church resulted from a tent revival sponsored by Kerr Memorial Church last August. At the close of the meeting, led by **Frank Hulse**, evangelist, three residents of the community committed themselves to the organization of the church. They have been meeting weekly in homes.

The church property, bought for $10,000, consists of a six-room house on a lot 175 by 200 feet.

New Wesley Church At Amherst, Mass.

On Easter Sunday, 1952, the first service of worship was held in the Wesley Methodist Church, Amherst, Massachusetts. Few of the worshipers that morning were aware that the pews on which they sat had been received from the factory the day before and had been bolted into the floor by the men of the church on Saturday!

The lovely $140,000 Georgian colonial structure—made possible through the assistance of Advance specials—is the only Protestant church within a mile of the University of Massachusetts campus with its 4,000 students!

Each Sunday morning the church has been filled to overflowing with a congregation two thirds of which is composed of college students, including seven young men who intend to enter the Methodist ministry.

Advance gifts are still needed to help complete the furnishing of this church. **James H. Laird** is the pastor.

• • •

The Brookville (Pa.) Community Ministerial Association is to follow a seminar study on evangelism as outlined by the program chairman, **Rev. Milton Thomas** of Hazen.

Church Receives 120

The accompanying picture, taken on Palm Sunday, March 29, 1953, shows part of the 120 persons who were received into the membership of the **Brighton Methodist Church** at Brighton, Colorado, during the Lenten season. On Palm Sunday, 97 were received and 39 were baptized. Prior to Holy Week, 24 had been received.

This increase in the membership of the Brighton Church resulted from personal visitation evangelism carried on by the minister and his wife. Membership classes were organized for four groups: Juniors, Junior-High, High School, and Adults. This work covered the 13 lessons in the authorized Membership Manual furnished by The Methodist Publishing House. The adults were in small groups and in some instances were family units. Sixteen entire families were received.

Following the reception of members on Palm Sunday, the new folk formed a great circle entirely around the sanctuary of the church and joined hands to sing, "Blest Be the Tie That Binds." The congregation stood and joined in the singing.

John Wesley Millsap, standing at the right, is pastor. **Keith Merriman,** standing at the left, a local preacher who is in Denver University, is the Associate pastor.

• • •

At Hokes Bluff Methodist Church, Gadsden, Alabama, the prayer cell which meets every Tuesday morning at 8:00 o'clock is proving a real blessing.

Outstanding Growth

In 13 years, the population of Oklahoma City has increased 14 per cent. During this same period, Methodist membership in the city has increased 70 per cent.

Here are statistics on the new churches in Oklahoma City:

Membership of new churches	4,708
Sunday school enrollment of these churches	4,360
Members Woman's Society of Christian Service	825
Friendly assistance amounts to	$125,000.00 (approximate)
Value of this property	$944,056.00

This amazing growth of the membership of the Church (five times faster than the population growth) has come through intensive home visitation and pulpit evangelism and the establishment of new churches close to the people.

Make 1953 Youth Plans

The year 1953 is the year when Iowa Methodism will attempt to win hundreds of youth to Jesus Christ and help them become intelligent and loyal churchmen. Youths, themselves, along with their adult leaders and pastors, will be engaged in this adventure this summer.

Youth are trained to be effective in this program by participating in Christian Witness Missions. A state-wide mission will be held in Des Moines the first full week in July. **Wilbur Wilcox,** associate minister of First Church, Des Moines, will be the dean.

The program calls for youth representatives from each subdistrict throughout the state. District youth counselors and secretaries of youth work from the Woman's Society of Christian Service are invited and urged to attend.

Teams of young people will be contacting unchurched youth in Des Moines each day of the week. In addition, they will have their study and fellowship periods, as well as times of inspiration. **Howard Ellis** from the Board of Evangelism in Nashville, Tennessee, will be one of the leaders.

Next fall each subdistrict will be asked to conduct a weekend Christian Witness Mission to provide additional training for other youths within the local church.

• • •

Uses Mobile Phone

A mobile radio telephone in his automobile helps **John H. Crowe,** pastor, Trinity Church, Denver, keep in touch with his church office and emergency needs while calling.

"It is almost a necessity," Mr. Crowe claims, "in a growing church of 3,600 members in a rapidly expanding city such as Denver."

Evangelistic Schedule

Lawrence L. Lacour
Box 963
Des Moines, Iowa

Sept. 10-12	Area Laymen's Retreat, DePauw University
Sept. 13-27	United Methodist Crusade, Brazil, Indiana
Oct. 4-18	United Methodist Crusade, Terre Haute, Indiana
Oct. 25-Nov. 8	United Methodist Crusade, Marian, Indiana
Nov. 15-29	City-Wide Crusade, under Council of Churches, South Bend, Indiana

Evangelistic Schedule

Joseph Brookshire
Box 431
Lexington, Kentucky

July 19-26 ..... United Methodist Crusade
Methodist Camp Grounds, Landisville, Pennsylvania
August 2-16 ..... First Methodist Church, Shamrock, Texas
August 17-30 ..... First Methodist Church, Dumis, Texas

Mrs. Helen B. Emmons Writes Devotional Book

Older adults will be intensely interested in a new book entitled, *The Mature Heart,* written by Mrs. Grover C. Emmons, widow of the founder and first editor of the devotional booklet, THE UPPER ROOM.

Published by Abingdon-Cokesbury Press, the volume is "a guide to spiritual maturity." It contains 150 meditations, grouped in topical sections and vividly illustrated with incidents from scripture, history, literature, and contemporary life.

Suitable for general adult use, this inspiring book will have special value as a gift for elderly people.

The Hour of Evangelism Is at Hand

Dr. Harold Paul Sloan, one-time editor of *The New York Christian Advocate* and recently pastor of the Wharton Memorial Methodist Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, is now devoting full time to evangelism and evangelistic meetings. Speaking concerning a recent series of surveys at Crisfield, Maryland, he says: "We had a number of old-fashioned altar services with voluntary prayer. The Holy Spirit was evidently manifest and the most influential people of the community were moved. Unquestionably the hour of evangelism is at hand.

Visitation Evangelism Increases Church Growth

The United Church of Ovid, Michigan, received 87 persons into the church as a result of visitation evangelism. **Robert C. Smith,** pastor, writes that the remarkable thing about this is that, other than youth, all new members were won to the church by laymen making calls for Christ and His Church.

The United Church is a church of Methodists and Congregationalists. The pastor says that all of the laymen were reluctant to go calling at first, that the local bank president—who has lived in Ovid all his life—thought that he simply could not do this. However, he did take a package of prospect cards and won every family he called on. The church and its evangelistic visitors are really enthusiastic about visitation evangelism and plan to continue it regularly. Total new members for the year is 69.

A New Challenge

Nearly 8,000 new homes have been built in Montgomery County, Maryland, in the past six years. There is no indication that this trend is going to stop in the near future. Such communities as Wheaton, Four Corners, Viers Mills, and Kensington present a missionary challenge that cannot be ignored.

The Methodist Church has discovered that a large percentage of the residents of new communities are interested in or affiliated with some other Methodist church but have no active relationship now. Existing churches are tremendously overcrowded.

The story of Hughes Church in Wheaton is an excellent example of how the church attempts to meet the tremendous problems confronting it.

Two years ago a small, inadequate, temporary chapel was erected. To have a permanent church building seemed a far-off event. A pastor was appointed and the church was organized. This year the church is developing and growing so fast that there is now a list of over 500 families to be called on.

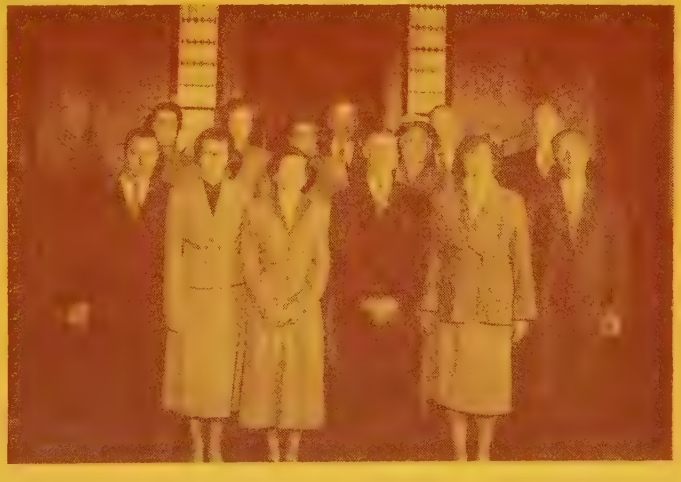
On Feb. 1, another new effort was begun barely three miles from Hughes Church, Wheaton, when District Superintendent John C. Millian appointed Harold Bell Wright to establish a new Viers Mill Church. A list of 100 names was given him as a beginning. The first regular service of worship was held in the Viers Mill theater, Sunday, March 2.

• • •

Adds 215 to Rolls

More than 215 commitments resulted from the evangelistic mission held in the **Cape Girardeau District** of the St. Louis Conference February 15-22. Twenty-one churches participated.

The photographs below show the group that was recently won by the United Church of Ovid, Michigan, through Visitation Evangelism. Those in the picture at the left came on profession of faith; those on the right were received by transfer.



Order Blank for

SPECIAL CERTIFICATES OF MEMBERSHIP

World Mission of Evangelism

1908 Grand Avenue, Nashville 5, Tenn.

Friends:

Please count us in on the great task of winning **250,000 Persons for Christ and His Church on Professon of Faith** during 1953, beginning on Pentecost-Aldersgate Sunday, May 24.

Please send me a Special Certificate of Membership, serially numbered, for each of the following persons. I definitely know that each of them has been received into our church on Profession of Faith on or after Sunday, May 24, 1953, or will be within the next few weeks.

Enclosed please find 2¢ for each name (stamps acceptable) to partially cover the cost of printing and handling the certificates.

I expect to send you other names and requests for Special Certificates from time to time during 1953.

Faithfully yours,

(signed) _____ Pastor

Address _____

Charge _____ District _____ Conference _____ Jurisdiction _____

Number of names furnished herewith _____

Amount enclosed (in cash or stamps) at 2¢ per name _____

Persons Received on Profession of Faith

	Name	Address
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		

(Attach another sheet for additional names)

Methodist and Baptist Prayer Meetings
Near an "H-Bomb" Plant Lead to

An Effective Program for Spiritual Defense

BY REYNOLDS W. GREEN
Pastor, Burns Memorial Methodist Church
Augusta, Georgia

EVERY Christian has great interest in our government's spending for atomic research. We have all been brought to a still greater concern by learning of the completion of the first "H-bomb." The Methodist Church must accept a great challenge in meeting the needs of its constituents who are being amassed throughout the country in centers of industrial development created by the expansion of the Atomic Energy Commission's work.

Savannah River Project

One such center is the Savannah River Project. This project, which is a few miles across the river from the city of Augusta, involves a large part of both South Carolina and Georgia.

Since the project's beginning, the city of Augusta has shown such tremendous growth that it has affected the total life pattern of the community. Housing and economic facilities have been a large part of the problem. Think of the change which an influx of some 40,000 people would bring to any city! Think of the challenge which that offers a church!

The church about which I want to tell is an unusual situation. This is so because, in two years, it has completely changed. In fact, it is still in the process of changing.

Burns Memorial Methodist Church was organized seven years ago as a result of community prayer services which, at the time, were being conducted in the village school auditorium in the afternoons. These prayer meetings were sponsored by surrounding Methodist and Baptist churches. Later a Sunday school was started; and, as an outgrowth two churches were organized in what was then a rural community seven miles from Augusta. The Methodist people built a small brick church with a seating capacity of about 150. The building provided five classrooms and an assembly room for the Sunday school in the basement. For the next four years the church was served as part of a circuit.

A Serious Housing Problem

Two and one-half years ago the Atomic Energy Commission, along with E. I. DuPont De Nemours & Company, began to call for workers to assemble in this area for the Savannah River Project. The government, of course, cooperated by granting loans for housing units to be constructed by local builders.

The Knox Corporation, with headquarters in Thomson, some 40 miles from here, accepted a large part of the burden of providing housing. This company provided hundreds of pre-fabricated housing units during the first year and has continued to build units in increasing numbers each year. Other companies joined in the battle against a housing problem which has not yet been completely relieved.

A large portion of these new units was constructed in the community served by the Burns Memorial Church. In fact, it is estimated that, within a two-mile radius of the church, the population is something in excess of 12,000 people. Estimates as to the area's saturation point of growth run as high as 30,000 people. A large percentage of the new population attracted by the Atomic Energy Plant is now living in our Fleming Heights community. Plans are already perfected for the building of a large shopping center to serve the people of this new "mushrooming" center.

Steady Growth

The little Burns Memorial Church has steadily grown until the membership is now 367. This is an increase of 100 per cent in the past two-and-a-half-

Group of new houses at the "H-Bomb" Center, Augusta, Georgia.

Evangelistic visitors prepare to call on prospects at the "H-Bomb" Center.

year period. The possibilities for its future growth are unlimited.

I was sent to the church in July, 1952, and have hardly been able to catch a breath since. I found that the former pastor, W. C. Bowen, had done much to implement the planning for the future. During his pastorate there was constructed a new church school building with 12 classrooms, while a new parsonage, secured as a donation of the Knox Company, was erected on a lovely site donated by the Grimaud family of the church.

Effective Publicity Campaign

The first thing we did was to launch a publicity campaign to present the program of our church. This was so effective that, within a few Sundays, every available space in the sanctuary was filled each Sunday. Finally, we were forced to provide more than 50 chairs for the overflow. Church school attendance has almost doubled. All class space is packed, and people often are compelled to sit in the hallways.

The second thing we did was to secure materials for the taking of a community survey. We organized our survey workers and went out to secure information from the thousands of people living here. At best, this survey was a fractional job due to the fact that during the month of the survey hundreds of new homes were being completed. Since that time many hundreds more have been built. We used the TIDINGS' Friendly Community Study Cards.

As a result of the first survey we located more than 300 Methodist families to whom we have sent Visitation Evangelism teams. As pastor, of course, it has been my duty to visit all of the members, to make calls on the sick, and to do all the follow-up work possible in the homes of new people in the community.

System of Records

To increase our knowledge for visitation we have set up a system of recording information on all new people who come to our church. This has proved very helpful. At the door, prospects are handed visitors' cards to drop into the collection plate. These cards give us basic information about the families, their church affiliation, and their local and former addresses. In addition, we ask that the people record their visit in our church guest book, kept in the lobby.

On Sunday evenings we frequently have a social hour in order that "newcomers" might get acquainted. Officials of various organizations of the church are given information concerning the new families and are asked to see that they are invited to participate in the "get-acquainted" groups. We find that many people begin active participation before actually uniting in membership.

Church school classes are also channeling information to the pastor about new members, or visitors who are prospective members for the church.

All over America new congregations are being organized and new church buildings are being constructed. This issue of *Shepherds*, devoted as it is to a portrayal of the magnitude of our need and opportunity for church extension, tells something of what is happening where Christian people are daring to match the challenge of our time. Other helpful articles along this line will appear in the September number. In addition, there will be detailed descriptions of successful religious surveys which have laid firm foundations for the building of new churches. Watch for these inspiring stories.

The Fishermen's Club

The most helpful thing that has happened to the church has been the organization of a "Fishermen's Club" which grew spontaneously out of a voluntary visitation program earlier in the year. Regular visitations are now conducted. Training sessions are held, and the recommended visitation materials and charts are used. This program is a growing, strengthening experience in the life of the church. No doubt it will continue to encourage effective work in winning people to Christ and the Church.

Plans are now developing for the expansion of property and buildings. Here is one of the great problems, also. More property can and must be bought. A new sanctuary must be built. All present space could be effectively utilized by the church school.

A staggering problem still remains, however. At best, the Burns Memorial Church, with all of its workers, is not able to reach more than a small percentage of the people who need to be reached immediately. It is hoped that additional full-time personnel for the church staff may be employed in the coming years. It is certainly hoped that other Agencies of the Church may see fit to help with the problem. In the meantime, we are launching forth on a great venture.

It is true that many people will be here for a relatively short time. Others will make their permanent home in this community. In any case, it is expected that this will be a permanent community center.

Pressing Needs

Other denominations have come into the field and are building substantial structures from funds contributed by other churches and agencies of their Church. In most cases, paid workers are being sent into the field by the Missionary Boards of these Churches to assist the local pastors. Such a move is being studied at present by the Boards of Missions and Evangelism of our Church for the Augusta Area.

Thousands of people from all over the country are here. They need the care and attention of our church. We hope that we will not fail them in so trying a time as the present.

This small church by the side of what was once a country road is now situated on a busy thoroughfare. It now stands in the midst of an increasingly growing civic and social life. We confidently hope that it may continue to have "growing pains" until its facilities are adequate for the needs of the people who have moved into its natural sphere of influence.

SOME ESSENTIAL METHODIST BELIEFS

by Robert G. Tuttle

A 12-page leaflet outlining the basic teachings of The Methodist Church.

5c each; $4.00 per 100

TIDINGS; 1908 Grand Avenue Nashville 5, Tennessee

Members Help a Church to Grow

by H. S. Coffey, Pastor
Mount Olivet Methodist Church
Arlington, Virginia

Above, the chairman of the Commission on Membership and Evangelism, Sidney L. Paddock (left), points out homes of new members of Mount Olivet Methodist Church, Arlington, Virginia, to Joseph C. Brown (center), president of the church Board of Christian Education, and to Dr. Hazel Davis (right), who is working with the group in making plans for neighborhood fellowship groups among the members.

Below, a dinner meeting of the Commission on Membership and Evangelism of the Mount Olivet Methodist Church. Dr. H. S. Coffey, pastor of the church, and Mrs. Coffey are shown at the extreme left.

Mount Olivet uses laymen in the work of the church. The only paid staff are the secretary, the director of music, and the janitor. The church is so organized as to be on the alert for lay talent within the membership. Through the W.S.C.S. a survey has been made under the direction of the Committee on Status of Women, while a similar survey among the men has been made under the direction of the Methodist Men. These studies have uncovered a number of trained people in the various fields of church work.

An Active Commission

The Commission on Membership and Evangelism is conserving the results of these surveys, duly following through with a program that has as its objective giving everyone an opportunity for self-expression in the work in which he is interested and for which he has had training and experience.

During the first week of March, 1953, the Commission met each evening through Thursday for a dinner meeting at 6:30. The dinner was financed by the official board and served by four different circles of the W.S.C.S.

About 20 persons attended each evening. After a few words of instruction and prayer, the group fanned out into the community to visit the homes of prospective members. They reported back to the church each evening between 9:00 and 10:00 o'clock. Many of the workers themselves received a Pentecostal experience as they presented the cause of Christ to the people. A number of conversions were witnessed in the home, and a large number of individuals decided to renew their obligations to the church by asking the visitors from this intensive campaign to have the pastor write for their letters. Eighty-six decisions resulted.

The chairman of the Commission, Sidney L. Paddock, presided over each dinner meeting and directed the workers. He was ably assisted by Mrs. Paddock, who is co-chairman of the Commission.

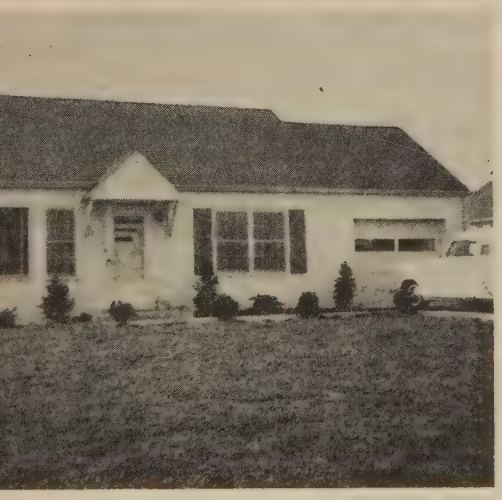
Families Visited

The families visited represented chiefly two types: parents who send their children to Sunday school but are not members of Mount Olivet, and persons who have attended the church service and have signed a visitor's card. One Sunday a month the pastor makes a special request for every person present to sign a registration card. Another source of new members has been the Cub and Boy Scout organizations sponsored by the Official Board.

In addition to the intensive effort early in Lent, the members of the Commission follow up registrations of visitors and other prospects throughout the year. This pattern of year-around evangelism was begun late in 1948. During the four years from October, 1948, through September, 1952, Mount Olivet Church received 865 members for a net gain of 595. Present membership is 1,255.

In such a rapidly growing congregation there is a problem of assimilating the new members. Plans are under way to organize neighborhood groups of eight to ten families, each with a leader who will serve about three months at a time. Each leader will be responsible for periodic telephone calls or personal visits to each member of his group, as well as for promoting a sense of fellowship and belonging. He will help new members in particular in finding a place of service in the church program.

A large map of Arlington hangs in the church office. It is planned to mark with a pin each household included in the membership. This mapping of the membership will be helpful in maintaining the neighborhood groups efficiently.



A Decade of Churc

by

R. H. Wade, Superintender

D. M. Spears, Superintende

HENRY DAVID THOREAU once said, "I hear beyond the range of sound; I see beyond the range of sight." In some such words as these we account for the progress of church extension in the city of Louisville over the past 10 years. For the achievements of this period are due, in large measure, to vision, insight, and understanding.

Sacrificial Giving

About nine years ago B. F. Atkinson, one of the retired ministers of the Louisville Conference, became deeply concerned over the establishment of new churches in this city and began to give generously of his own resources to this end. At the time of his death last January the *Louisville Courier-Journal* published on its front page an account of his unusual generosity and devotion, reporting him as having said that he "gave his money out of a deep love for The Methodist Church and the Kingdom of God." His gifts for church extension during this period totaled approximately $25,000. This is all the more remarkable when it is understood that at no time in his half century as a Methodist preacher had he ever received a pastoral salary of more than $3,000.

Church extension in Louisville owes no small debt to the vision and generosity of this man. It is also indebted in a large way to the unselfish efforts of Amos Miller, a local preacher and contractor, who has given unusual leadership in the building of two of our new churches, in the construction of two new parsonages, and in drawing the plans for others.

As much as the money given by Brother Atkinson and the services rendered by Brother Miller have meant, however, the achievements of the past 10 years would never have been possible apart from the leadership of District Superintendents R. V. Bennett and Baxter W. Napier and the wise administration of the Louisville City Mission and Church Extension Society. This Society was organized in 1942 under the leadership of Roy H. Short, then District Superintendent, now Bishop.

Besides making cash contributions, this organization has offered encouragement, has given advice based on experience, and has inspired promotion in connection with each new congregation

Pictures from top to bottom:
Immanuel Church
Buechel Parsonage
Clifton Heights Parsonage
Clifton Heights Church
Kenwood Parsonage

tension in Louisville

sville East District

sville West District

organized and with each new parsonage built or purchased by or for such congregations. Its general policy is to make donations only to new projects. It helps old established churches only when they move to new locations which the Society believes to be advantageous to future growth and progress. The Society has a loan fund, however, which at times has been made available to other than new churches.

Our "City Board," as the Society is popularly known, received its initial funds from voluntary contributions of individual churches. Now it has an annual apportionment to each of the charges in the Louisville East and Louisville West Districts. This is frequently supplemented by generous offerings over and above the requested amounts.

Loan Fund

The loan fund came into existence as a result of a property settlement following Unification when a congregation of the former Methodist Episcopal Church and a congregation of the Methodist Episcopal Church South were merged.

"Never before in the history of Louisville Methodism has there been a program of expansion, building, and improvement of church property comparable to that of the present period," said a history of Louisville Methodism published in 1949. With the growth of the city of Louisville unabated, the need for development continues. As a consequence, everything possible is being done to meet the challenge that confronts us.

Major Developments

Below is a partial résumé of the major developments which have been made in the last 10 years or which are being planned for the immediate future:

New churches organized, 6—with plans for the organization of another this year.

New churches erected, 11—with plans for starting another.

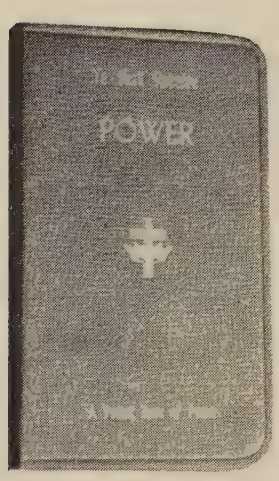
Churches relocated, 2—with the relocation for one other now in process.

New parsonages obtained, 18—with plans now under way for building or purchasing two others.

New educational facilities, 19—with two others in process.

Pictures from top to bottom:

Audubon Church
Oakdale Church
Immanuel Parsonage
Shownee Church
Parkview Parsonage



A Pocket Book of Power

By Ralph S. and Robert E. Cushman

Those who have loved the poems of Bishop Ralph S. Cushman (*I Met Him in the Morning, Set Me Afire, Lord*, etc.) and those thousands who have found renewed faith and inspiration in *A Pocket Prayer Book* and *The Pocket Book of Faith* will welcome another book in the same format. Here are poems, prayers, quotations, scripture, and a score of the original poems of Bishop Cushman, some of them never before published. Bishop Cushman has been aided in the selection of the material and the writing of the prayers by his son, Robert E. Cushman. This is a book that is planned and designed for church members. It is planned to offer helpful material that will challenge the church member to use the power that comes to him. It is a book that will be read and re-read. It will be a source of continuing inspiration and of power.

In the vest-pocket format of its sister books, this is a beautiful example of the bookmaker's art. Bound in deep maroon imitation leather and stamped in gold. Three copies, $1.00.

35c

The Cushman Trilogy

A Pocket Prayer Book

This well-loved book of prayer and inspiration has won its way into the hearts of thousands of Christians, many of whom make it a habit to carry a copy with them always, not only for themselves, but also to always have one available to pass on to others. 35c

A Pocket Book of Power

Newest book in the vest-pocket series is this lovely and helpful publication which promises to equal its two predecessors in popularity and usefulness. It is built around the promise: "Ye Shall Receive Power" and is planned especially for church members. 35c

The Pocket Book of Faith

Emphasizing faith, this vest-pocket book has been especially popular with young people and youth. It has been a favorite gift for men and women in the service. Men and women have turned to it repeatedly in times of trial and difficulty. 35c.

In a Gift Box—All Three for $1.00

1908 Grand Avenue THE UPPER ROOM Nashville 5, Tenn.

aith Plus Hard Work
onquers Difficulties

When Young Adults Build a Church

By James B. Miller
Layman, Nashville, Tennessee

DALEWOOD METHODIST CHURCH of Nashville, and its redominantly youthful congregation, tands today as vital proof that deter-ination and desire can triumph over ie multitude of problems encountered i the building of a church. Today, its parkling new church school building ust completed, Dalewood stands like beacon overlooking hundreds of new ouses in a neighborhood that only a ew years ago was nonexistent. It ap-ears that the major tests have been assed, and the biggest problems asso-iated with a church's early develop-ient have been overcome. But, behind ll that has been accomplished there is story of hard work and of a group of oung people who refused to be im-ressed by the magnitude of the job hat faced them.

Let us go back to 1946 and trace from hat date the step-by-step progress of a ommunity. Then we shall see more learly how the need for a church came bout and how the challenge was so dequately and willingly met.

Along the banks of the Cumberland River, east of the business district of he city of Nashville, farms had covered he rolling hills for many years. Cattle nd dairy herds grazed on green lush pastures only minutes from the down-own section. The country was peaceful nd beautiful.

But 1946 was the first of the post-World War II years, and great social changes began to take place in all parts of the globe. Men came home from weary years of war with one desire, namely, to assume again the pattern of living they had known before. Marriages, planned years before, became realities now as the constituency of the population once again had its quota of male members. As a result, the demand for space and houses to take care of the spiralling population pushed out the boundaries of all cities. Nashville could not help but share that experience.

The diary farms and the agrarian nature of the east Nashville hills were thus destined for change. Contractors and earth-moving machines came; and, in a matter of months, there were vast new sub-divisions stretching as far as the eye could see. The very nature of the times made these new neighborhoods a collection of young families, most of them buying their first houses.

Need for a Church

Frank A. Calhoun, pastor of Inglewood Methodist Church, saw his congregations increase each Sunday by leaps and bounds until, by 1950, he realized the need for a new church in the area. Along with the officials of Inglewood Church, and in cooperation with the City Board of Missions, he began plans to meet this need. It was decided to sponsor a new church, since it was obvious that such a church could be supported if only it had a place in which to expand.

A lot was purchased on the crest of a hill that looked out over the many homes the church was destined to serve. District Superintendent J. Dallas Bass took the next important step by appointing Robert L. Langford, of the Mississippi Conference, as pastor of the new church.

Thus the ground work was laid. When the new pastor arrived on March 15, 1950, he was presented with prospect cards obtained as the result of a survey made by the Young Adults of the Nashville District at the request of Inglewood Church.

On Sunday, March 26, the first service was held in Hobson Methodist Church, and 50 persons signed membership cards. The following Sunday the church began meeting in Inglewood school. There were 68 in church school and 85 at the morning service.

The church was officially organized on April 30, with 126 charter members. It was named Dalewood Methodist Church after the area it was to serve.

For the most part the 126 members were young people, the large majority of whom belonged to the under-40 age group. Few had any experence whatso-

Plant of Dalewood Methodist Church. Building on the left is the new church school building. The building on the right contains the sanctuary and additional classrooms.

ever in conducting church affairs. But they set out to prove that there was no problem which would not succumb to faith, prayer, and hard work. "I've never had any experience at this sort of thing," each one said, in effect. "In fact, I know nothing about it at all. But I'm willing to try, and I'm sure in time things will work themselves out." This determination produced the kind of self-confidence which, in time, produced a church.

In the meanwhile, a meeting of interested women had resulted in a Woman's Society of Christian Service. An even dozen formed the first group. On May 4 the Wesleyan Service Guild was formed.

Now came the biggest task in this ambitious scheme of things: the actual, physical construction of a church building.

Here again youth proved its mettle. Men and women of weaker faith would have shuddered at the prospect which faced Dalewood. With a total of $500 they started out to build a church which would cost $25,000. Amazingly enough, this building stood completed only 10 months after the organization of the church. What a tribute to men and women who refused to bow in the face of adversity!

Physical Resources

The building has a large social hall, presently used as an auditorium. In addition to the church school rooms, there is a kitchen which has been put to good use on occasion to raise funds.

Still Dalewood found that there were hundreds who needed to be enrolled in church school and that present facilities were already becoming inadequate. Average attendance in the church school had zoomed to 250!

Continuing their relentless campaign, and maintaining the attitude which had marked their progress from the day of the church's origin, the people of Dalewood planned a new building—a magnificent structure which, when completed, would cost $300,000.

Mr. James Wilson was selected as architect. He immediately drew up plans for a portion of the new structure. This part of the new building was to accommodate 350 persons and was to be put into use before the entire structure was completed.

The enthusiastic membership went after the new problem with the same determination with which it had faced previous tasks, and the new building's first segment was completed and occupied in March, 1953.

Now, after three years of hard work, sacrifice, and faithful determination, the church has 375 members, a church school with 600 members, a Woman's Society of Christian Service with five circles, a Wesleyan Service Guild, and a Methodist Men's Club.

The budget for 1953 is $21,000.

The pastor believes that effective evangelism for a new church must be a day-by-day evangelism rather than a formally-planned program. He says, "A new church should not bring in too many members too quickly. In the rush of things it is too easy to lose them." He has also found visitation to be the best method of winning new members.

The Commission on Membership and Evangelism has followed the method of giving a team five prospects and a month to work with them. They are not rushed but are free to work at their convenience. The method has proved more effective at Dalewood than short periods of visitation possibly could.

An example of Dalewood's evangelism is clearly illustrated by a member who recently met a family during the course of his business. He found that they lived in the Dalewood area. He quickly whipped out a commitment card and made prompt use of the opportunity. Such alert practices rarely fail. Indeed, they have been the core of Dalewood's evangelistic work. This particular member says he always has four or five commitment cards on his person.

In reviewing Dalewood's three-year history, the successes can be attributed to a number of things.

Bases of Success

Exceptional, indeed, was the attitude of Inglewood Church, which stood to lose most by the formation of the Dalewood congregation. Yet, in a spirit of brotherhood rarely equalled, Inglewood not only sacrificed a portion of its membership to the new church but, sponsoring Dalewood, presented it with the $7,000 lot on which it now stands. The complete air of cooperation and good will probably was the most important single contribution to Dalewood's progress. It is a matter of record that Inglewood members who lived in the Dalewood area were urged to transfer their memberships.

Though the original building fund started out with $500 raised by the members themselves, aid soon came from other sources. This was a welcome and pleasant surprise. The Board of Church Extension contributed $2,000 for the first unit, while the Conference Board of Missions donated $500.

All these things played significant parts in building Dalewood Church. All enabled the church to reach its present place as one of the section's leading institutions. But the credit for sustaining what already had been created must go to those courageous and inexperienced young adults who stepped so admirably into strange roles. With its fate in their hands, Dalewood Church can face the future with confidence.

A children's class at Dalewood Methodist Church

Morning worship service.

Rural

Memorial Methodist Church, Charles City, Virginia.

EVANGELISM

By A. B. Berry, Jr.
Memorial Methodist Church
Charles City, Virginia

FOR several years I worked as a statistical engineer in private business. We were always concerned when the progress curve began to flatten out. We knew that something was wrong. We needed new machinery in order to produce more, or we needed different efficiency methods in order to make better use of the machinery we already had in production.

Progress Curve

The progress curve of our Methodist Church flattened out a number of years ago. This applies not only to our membership but to our finances as well. We have remained at a standstill, as far as both finances and membership are concerned, over a long period of years.

If we are ever to recapture a continuous advance, I believe that it must be done in Rural America. I am convinced that within my own Annual Conference, for example, there are a hundred thousand people living beyond our cities' limits who should be Methodists.

That which I know about the techniques of evangelism I learned from a depression experience with the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. We were told in every training session to "find them, sell them, and keep them." I am sure that this is the same process that we need to use in the Church whether it is rural or urban. We need to find the people who do not know Christ; we need to win them for Christ and His Church; and finally, we need to keep them by using them in the program of the Church.

Quest for Unchurched

In 1944 I received my first appointment as a Methodist supply pastor. I had prepared two sermons in my life—both within the last six weeks before the appointment was made. I was sent to a five-point rural circuit where one church was already closed. We had a total membership of 229, with about 40 per cent of the members non-resident or inactive.

Consequently, we began the search for those of our community who were not a part of the Church. This search was conducted in numerous ways. Probably the most important method used to find our prospects has been "talking church" to everyone we met, even as we had "talked insurance" to every one we met when selling insurance constituted our livelihood.

Thus, we have spent much time in the fields on a hay baler, standing beside the farmer on the tractor, riding the box of a grain drill, or perhaps just walking through a pasture to look at the cattle. I find that there is always time at the end of the row to talk about the Church.

With the same purpose in mind, I like to loaf at the country store where I can participate in the talk about the deer hunt of yesterday and where, after the deer has been killed and the story ended, I can always find a willing audience to tell about the Church and what it means—and what it should mean—to the community.

The little post office, with only a general delivery window, usually provides a good opportunity for conversation around mail time. So, too, the court house, the Citizen's Association, the Ruritan Club are all good places to find prospects—men and women who need the Master.

Knowing where the empty houses are located and helping to find persons who want to occupy them has proved to be a very wonderful source of prospects. The same is true with regard to knowing where jobs are available, such as the automobile dealer who needs a new mechanic; the grocer who needs a clerk; the farmer who needs a manager or another farm hand. Helping to fill these places adds prospects to our list. Knowing where one might find the financial backing with which to buy a farm or to start a small business has added many new names to our church roll.

Part of Community

I have found that being a part of the recreational life of our community has been a rich source of prospects. For two years now I have served as secretary and treasurer of a "semipro" baseball league. I do not think I have ever attended a more rowdy meeting than the first session where I was present. After the meeting had been in progress for about 10 minutes, the presi-

dent of the league stopped in the middle of a discussion and asked that I lead the group in prayer. I did so. The effect is evident in the fact that I have never worked with a more cooperative group of men and young men than those who are now my associates in the Tidewater Baseball League.

Recreation an Asset

In the country many of our young men and young women graduate from high school but do not enter college. They are at an age when active sports should still be a part of their recreation. So, for several years now, we have sponsored a basketball team for both our young men and women as well as a girls' softball team. Each of these activities has added to our prospect list. Not long ago, for example, I received into the membership of The Methodist Church three young men between the ages of 15 and 17, none of whom had Methodist background.

Of course, we employ the usual methods of prospecting, too, such as our Sunday school and youth fellowship, the religious census, and the annual school census. If the people of our community are going to be won for the Church, we must first know which of them are prospects. After we get their names on the prospect list, we face our big job.

In 1944, when we were a circuit of five churches, we began our first lay visitation program. We were told at first that it was not practical for us to use this type of evangelistic program on our wide circuit. We had one church 35 miles from the parsonage. Nevertheless, we decided to try. Suppers were arranged in the homes of each church community. The lay visitors were selected from all of the churches. We had our supper and instruction in one of the homes. Then the visitors were assigned their prospects and went out to talk about Christ, rather than the church of which they were members, because frequently they were securing members for a church to which they did not belong.

Dinner on the grounds at Memorial Methodist Church on Homecoming Sunday. Photographs in this article courtesy of the Virginia Conference Commission on Town and Country Work.

But, evangelistic visiting must not end with these planned periods. In order for me to remain a happy preacher, it is necessary that always, every day, I find someone to whom I may talk about his soul. This is necessary in order that my ministry may mean all that it should mean to my own life.

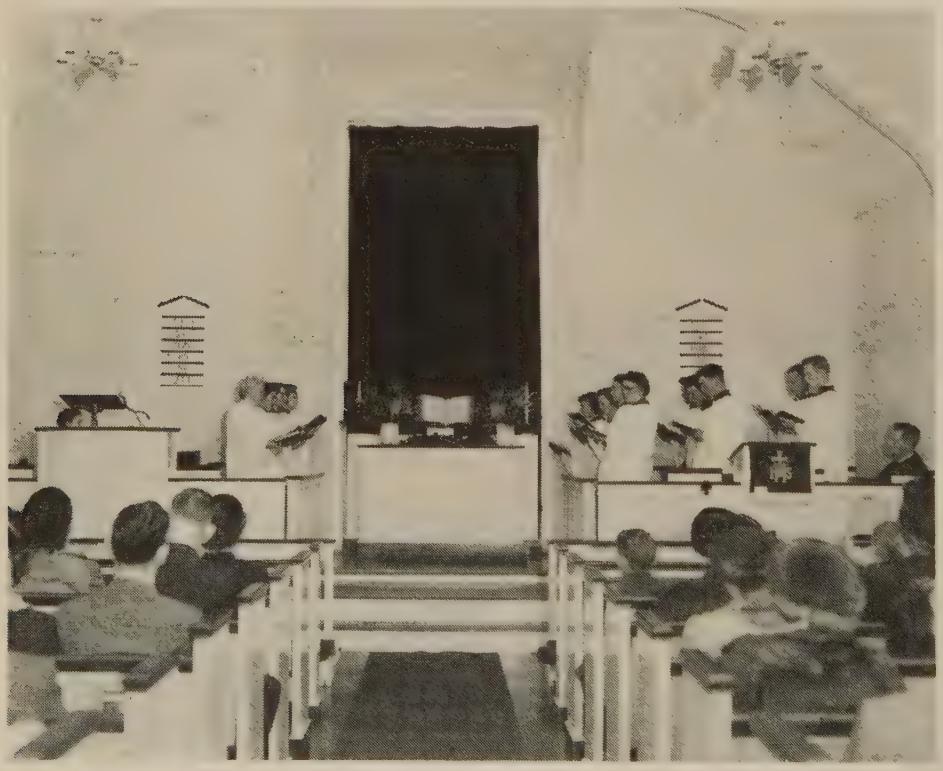
A Vital Program

A part of the winning process is the program of a church. We must create the kind of church in rural America that will be inviting to those who have been nurtured in Christianity and are searching for a church home.

Our little church of 75 families supports a troop of Boy Scouts, the athletic program already mentioned, and a fine children's choir that requires about 150 miles of combined driving for three automobiles in order that the children might be returned home when the afternoon rehearsal is over. The youth fellowship has attracted young people of all denominations, and out of it have come eight life-service dedications.

Our two active young adult classes are publishing a county magazine that is mailed into every home of our county each month. This magazine carries the minutes of the Board of Supervisors, the activities of the civic organizations, and the minutes of the groups connected with the extension service, as well as the news of the several denominational groups. There is an active drama group producing at least one play and sometimes two plays a year, using the little theater principles. The women of the church have performed a wonder-

A typical morning service at Memorial Church.



ful ministry by decorating the sanctuary and educational facilities each Sunday with the manifold beauties of our countryside.

The Ruritan Club holds a supper meeting in our church once a month, and the friendly spirit that has resulted from this association is bringing men into our fellowship. Our Lord's Acre Program, which will ultimately support one of our own families in its missionary work in India, has touched several for whom the church had not seemed to have an answer before.

Finding people is important. Winning them is important. However, the most important phase of our evangelistic effort should be aimed at keeping them after they have been won. To assimilate them requires a program. We must use these people after they have taken the vow of service in joining the church.

I stated above that our church is made up of about 75 resident families. Each of these families is represented by either the man or the wife on our official board; and, when baby-sitting is no problem, we have made both man and wife a part of the official board. We are using our people on the Commission, and this has been a part of our church organization for several years.

We have a bookkeeper trained to keep the books that were set up by a Certified Public Accountant. We are using counselors for young people and children. We have coaches for our athletic teams. We have officers for each Commission. We have special working committees for the Lord's Acre. We have Scout masters and Scout committees.

We found it rather hard to assimilate the more than 100 people who were received into our circuit churches in 1945. As a consequence, we decided to do something that would give them a job. We decided to relocate the four churches that were within the Charles City County. In doing so, we made sure that each of them selected the same place. While these plans were in the making, the fifth church, located in an adjoining county, was destroyed by fire.

In 1947 we built two fine rural church buildings. These were opened for worship in the spring and summer of 1948. At our Annual Conference in 1948 the charge was divided to form two rural stations. Each of these has made great progress.

The church that I serve—the church made up of four small relocated congregations—now has over 300 members. This total is more than double the membership with which we started. These four churches paid me $900 my first year as pastor. This year the budget of the new church is approximately $20,000. We are going to build additional educational space. We have our missionary family to support. In large numbers, our people are beginning to tithe. And it all began when we found our prospects, talked to them about Christ until they were won, and made a determined effort to keep them.

The pastor and his family enjoy a rare evening at home. Shown, left to right, are Mr. Berry, Tim, Win, Elva, Sandy, and Mrs. Berry.

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TIDINGS
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CHURCH extension—the organizing of new congregations and the erecting of new sanctuaries of worship to care for the growing and changing populations—is a primary goal of the Methodists of the Richmond Area, which comprises most of Virginia and eastern North Carolina. Bishop Paul N. Garber, resident Bishop, has encouraged every District in the Area to give primary attention to this need.

One of the first results of the church extension program has been the evangelistic achievement by Grace Methodist Church, Newport News, Virginia, under the leadership of its pastor, A. Purnell Bailey.

Establishes Chapels

This Methodist church in the Tidewater area of Virginia organized three new Methodist congregations in the month of February. All of them were established within seven miles of the mother church.

The three chapels are Christ Chapel, Grace Chapel, and Bethany Chapel. The first two congregations had their first service on February 15, 1953, while Bethany Chapel had its initial meeting on February 22, 1953. Since that time two of the chapels have been constituted as regular church organizations. One of them has 70 charter members.

Not only did Grace Church sponsor the three new congregations; it also provided the pastor supplying the chapels! The associate pastor of Grace Church, Harry N. Bailey, will supply the work at Grace Chapel. His salary will be paid by the mother church. The other two appointments, made by Bishop Garber, are as follows: Edward P. Hornlein, Jr., to Christ Chapel and John A. Rierson, Jr., to Bethany Chapel. These young men are two of the 11 who have gone into the ministry from Grace Church. Seven have thus volunteered during the past three years.

Unique Opportunity

Upon making the appointments to the three new chapels Bishop Garber said: "Seldom does a Bishop have the opportunity to make three new appointments within two weeks to three new churches sponsored and organized within the short period of 14 days by a single congregation. Unless I am mistaken, this has never happened before in our Methodism. I pay tribute to the District Superintendent, the pastor, and the loyal laymen of Grace Church for their vision and for their determination to start new Methodist churches to care for this rapidly growing section of Virginia. I truly feel that Grace Church is following in the great tradition of John Wesley, Francis Asbury, and other far-sighted pioneers of Methodism."

R. Orman Bryant, Superintendent of the Portsmouth-Newport News District, under whose supervision the congregations were begun, commended the vision and foresight of Grace Church in the work of church extension. He pointed out that Grace Church, while starting these three new congregations, had also launched upon a building program. In addition, on the Sunday when the first two congregations were organized, it made a free-will offering of $2,400 for church extension in other parts of the Virginia Conference. Dr. Bryant declared that participation in the organizing of these three new congregations within a period of two weeks was the most inspiring event in his entire ministry.

The pastor of Grace Church, A. Purnell Bailey, said: "Our church is only an average one, the membership being only 967. What we have done any church can do in a growing area. I believe the future of Methodist church extension, to be most effective, must stem from the desire of local churches to make missions a reality at home, especially in growing areas. It is encouraging spiritually to see our church do this at the very time when it will be building a new sanctuary and educational building itself. We hope many of our sister churches in Methodism will share their resources and people in the same type of venture. We must go to the people wherever they may be, whether at home or abroad."

Mr. Bailey has served Grace Church since 1950. During World War II he was a chaplain in the Pacific area. He served on Leyte and Luzon in the Philippines and entered Japan the first day of the Occupation. He served with the Army of Occupation in that country for 15 months.

An Influential Ministry

While in Japan, Mr. Bailey accompanied Tojo to the hospital after the Japanese premier's attempted suicide. He was the first Christian minister to broadcast a continuous, daily devotional service over the Japanese Radio Network. He now conducts a five-minute daily devotional program over 17 radio stations from Alabama to Virginia. Called "Daily Bread," the program is heard every weekday throughout the year. In addition, he has a daily column in many newspapers across the country. Called "Bread of Life," this column is syndicated by General Features. Mr. Bailey received the B.A. degree from Randolph-Macon College and the B.D. degree from Duke University.

(This article, with minor editorial changes, is taken from an article by George S. Reamey, editor of the *Virginia Methodist Advocate,* Richmond, Virginia.)

Church

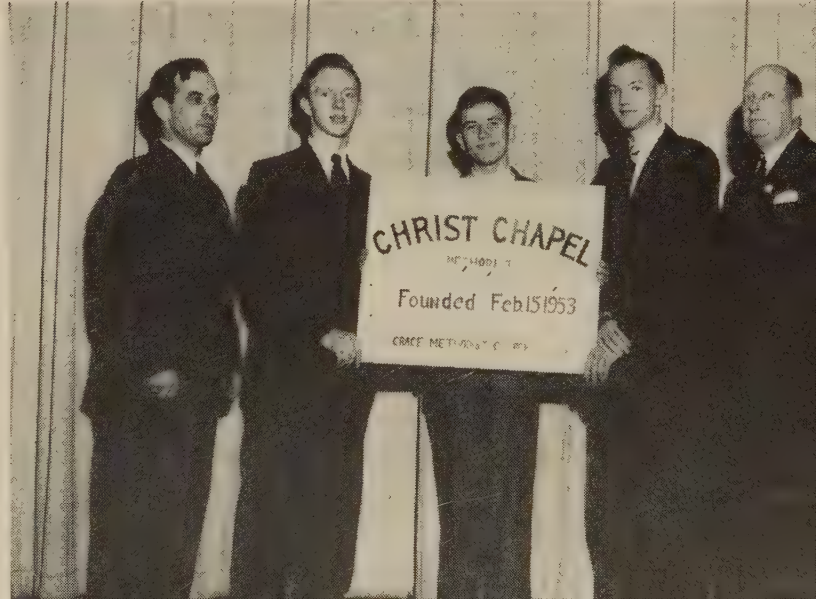
hree Chapels

by George S. Reamey

Editor of the *Virginia Methodist Advocate*
Richmond, Virginia

ABOVE: left to right, Chaplain Harry N. Bailey, associate pastor of Grace Church, now appointed by Bishop Garber to supply Grace Chapel; W. M. Sherman, Superintendent of the Church School; Walter R. Leach, Chairman of the Official Board; Alfred Hauser, Youth Counselor; and A. Purnell Bailey, pastor of Grace Church. Grace Chapel had 70 charter members when offocially constituted Easter Sunday.

LEFT: left to right, John A. Rierson, Jr., recently appointed to supply Bethany Chapel; Mrs. Rierson; Alfred L. Eastman, Superintendent of the Church School; Mrs. Eastman, President of the W.S.C.S.; and A. Purnell Bailey.



RIGHT: left to right, A. Purnell Bailey; Edward P. Hornlein, Jr., recently appointed to supply Christ Chapel; David Jarvis II, organist for the chapel, Eugene Wolfley, ministerial candidate from Grace Church, and R. Orman Bryant, District Superintendent of the Portsmouth-Newport News District.

OPPOSITE PAGE: The picture shows the congregation of Grace Chapel meeting in Riverside School, Warwick, Virginia.

for those in Service

—of course you are sending to each of your young men and women in the services (or to those away for work or training) a copy of each issue of THE UPPER ROOM *in the handy pocket edition. There are many occasions when you want to send something extra.*

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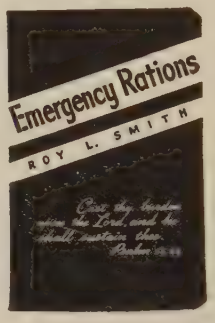
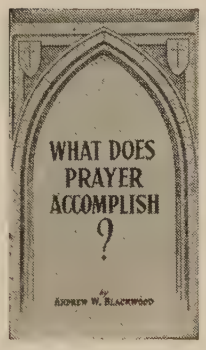


Indeed "emergency rations" are these pages designed to help meet the problems and difficulties of day-to-day living. Written in concise and colorful style by Roy L. Smith, the rations deal with the solutions to 45 problems. Here are some of the titles: *You Are Important, Don't Waste Yourself, Trust Your Best, Believe in God, Evil Cannot Prevail, That Was Yesterday, Love Never Fails, You Can Be Sure.* Here is a keen perception of spiritual values that is indeed helpful. Vest-pocket size. Heavy paper cover. Single copy 10¢; 12 copies $1.00; 100 copies $6.00.



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Bishop Ralph Spaulding Cushman has prepared this companion book to *A Pocket Prayer Book* with scripture, poetry, quotations, all emphasizing faith. It contains more than a score of the poems of Bishop Cushman himself like: *The Star-Lit Hill; My Creed; Give Me a Song, Dear God, in the Morning; I've Made Up My Mind to Be Happy; God Is Not Far;* and other favorites. Its handy pocket size and its colorful binding (blue imitation leather with blue edges and gold stamping) make it an attractive gift. Its content makes it a lasting one. 35¢; three copies $1.00.

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Report of United Evangelistic Missions

November, 1949-May 10, 1953

No.	Mission	Profession and Vows	Transfers	Total Commitments
	1949-1950			
1	Philadelphia Area	4,912	3,162	8,074
	1950-1951			
2	Peninsula Conference	2,439	1,489	3,928
3	Kansas-Nebraska Area	5,305	5,404	10,709
4	Syracuse Area	8,603	5,099	13,702
5	Baltimore Conference	1,861	1,428	3,289
6	Des Moines Area	6,144	5,171	11,315
7	Wyoming Conference (Binghamton District)	374	290	664
8	Arizona Conference	262	470	732
	1951-1952			
9	East St. Louis Conference	564	181	745
10	Cuba Conference	2,178	.....	2,178
11	Erie Conference	3,186	1,375	4,561
12	Pittsburgh Conference	4,983	2,040	7,023
13	West Virginia Conference	8,270	2,611	10,881
14	Asbury Seminary	357	72	429
15	Denver Area	1,774	2,045	3,819
16	Dallas-Ft. Worth Area	4,739	7,369	12,108
17	Houston Area	3,931	5,700	9,631
18	Texas-West Texas Conf. (C)	493	577	1,070
19	St. Paul Area	5,035	2,580	7,615
20	Los Angeles Area	3,104	4,010	7,114
21	Hawaii Mission	250	.....	250
22	Savannah District	405	346	751
23	Atlanta City (C)	117	98	215
24	Philadelphia Area	5,254	2,075	7,329
25	Arkansas-Louisiana Area	5,444	6,022	11,466
26	Maine Conference	227	88	315
27	San Francisco Area	2,769	2,781	5,550
28	Jackson Area	4,476	3,046	7,522
29	St. Louis Area	7,235	5,072	12,307
30	Oklahoma Area	8,038	4,369	12,407
31	Portland Area	5,478	3,868	9,346
32	Cuba Conference	1,436	.....	1,436
33	Florida Conference	3,311	3,404	6,715
34	Alaska	246	157	403
35	Pacific Japanese Provisional Conference	151	.....	151
36	Dublin District	314	192	506
37	Florence District	194	151	345
38	Chattanooga District	437	205	642
39	Williamsport District	375	246	621
40	Brooksville District	378	200	578
41	Norfolk-Portsmouth-Newport News District	978	1,022	2,000
42	Lexington District	158	64	222
43	Montgomery District	237	253	490
44	Metropolitan Washington, D. C.	2,249	2,209	4,458
45	Mississippi Conference (C) and Upper Miss. Conf. (C)	819	342	1,161
46	Birmingham District	69	21	90
47	Detroit Area	10,803	5,207	16,010
48	Louisville Area	5,140	4,382	9,522
49	Harrisburg District	319	308	627
50	Maine Conference	211	52	263
	1952-1953			
51	Illinois Conference	3,691	2,950	6,641
52	Ohio Area	25,005	11,069	36,074
53	Grove City District	550	365	915
54	Cuba Conference	2,216	.....	2,216
55	New Albany District	289	214	503
56	Hagerstown District	507	406	913
57	Louisiana Conference (C)	989	231	1,220
58	SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTION			
	Atlanta Area	6,577	4,842	11,419
	Birmingham Area	4,546	3,854	8,400
	Richmond Area	9,113	7,382	16,495
	Charlotte Area	7,737	5,214	12,951
	Jackson Area	3,353	2,384	5,737
	Jacksonville Area (Fla. Conf.)*	2,871	2,598	5,469
	Nashville Area	5,561	3,431	8,992
	TOTAL	209,037	142,193	351,230

*Cuba Conference listed above.

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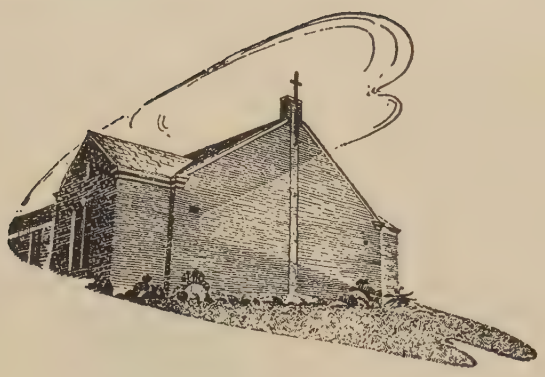

Suburban Growth Produces a Church

The Village Methodist Church of Oklahoma City was the product of careful community surveys and the practical concern of Wesley Methodist Church. During the first year, Wesley Church helped to provide the salary for a full-time pastor. During the second year, this "mother church" helped to pay the loan owed to the General Board of Missions. In addition, it loaned personnel for guidance in the establishment of the organizations necessary for the effective functioning of the new church. Wesley Church also donated basic church supplies and equipment.

Need Out of Which the Planning Grew

When the church organization was born in January, 1951, the population of the Village, which is an incorporated township suburb of Oklahoma City (northwest), was 6,000. During its first two years of existence, this has been the only church in the Village.

Typical of the Village is the G.I. veteran of World War II. Practically all of the 400 members are young couples between the ages of 21 and 35. What greater, more urgent need could exist!

The local church decided against beginning with any temporary building. All that was built was erected according to the highest construction standards. Contrary to modern vogue, the decision was made not to use concrete block interior construction. Instead, the structure is built with brick exterior, brick tile interior, solid wall construction. The first unit, just built, measures 104′ x 40′ on the ground floor, with the second floor of the educational section behind the chapel measuring 41.8′ x 40′. Total space amounts to 5,832 feet. The cost of getting the building exterior completed and the interior completed to the extent that it could be used—minus the expense of accoustical tile ceilings, linoleum block tile floors, etc.—was about $36,000. The second story section, which is used for eight classes on Sunday, also is used for fellowship dinners for 150 persons. It is equipped with a small kitchenette. In the permanent plans this space will be the youth center.

Greatest Factor

The greatest factor in the organization and establishment of a new church is spiritual zeal. While many of our members are heavily in debt because their homes are mortgaged, they have nevertheless given of time and talent and back-breaking work weekend upon weekend to make the church what it is today.

Lay visitation twice a year, as well as monthly visitation by Methodist Men, has been at the heart of this evangelism program.

Richard E. Gibbens is pastor of the Village Church.

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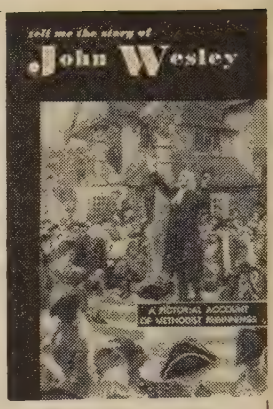

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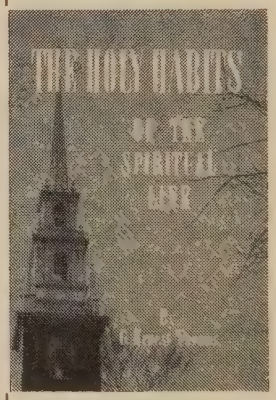

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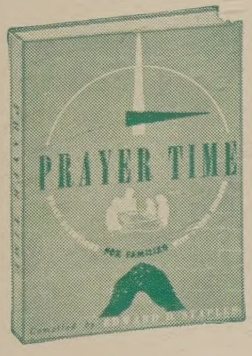

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